

## Second crossing to be delayed

AMMAN (AFP) — The opening of a second border crossing between Jordan and Israel, originally slated for mid-October, has been postponed because of a delay in building a new bridge, officials here said Saturday. "The postponement is due to the non-completion of work on the Israeli side," said Brigadier Imed Maaya, head of the army's engineering corps. Marwan Musheh, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, also confirmed the delay but he would not give a new date. "It all depends on the work on the Israeli side," he told AFP. U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that the border crossing would be inaugurated by Oct. 15. The announcement came after a meeting at the White House between Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Oct. 3. The new bridge over the River Jordan will be the second border crossing for third country nationals between Jordan and Israel. The first one, at Wadi Araba near the southern port city of Aqaba, was opened on Aug. 8. The work is being carried out near the old Sheik Hussein Bridge, which was partially blown up in the first war of 1948. It was further destroyed during the 1967 conflict.

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## Gulf tension eases as U.S. confirms Iraqi withdrawal

### U.S., Russia deadlocked over U.N. move

#### Combined agency dispatches

TENSION IN the Gulf eased slightly Saturday as the United States confirmed Iraq was withdrawing its Republican Guard forces and no longer in a position to attack Kuwait after a week-long standoff.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, here visiting U.S. troops, said: "The deployment of Iraqi troops at this moment is still ambiguous. But it appears the remaining half of the one Republican Guard division still in the south appears to be waiting for transport back home."

"The Republican Guards are not in a position to attack as we stand," he told reporters a day after warning that one guard unit remained "dangerously close" to the emirate. "We don't expect an attack now."

"We are continuing our deployment ... we are not pocketing a peaceful outcome yet," Mr. Perry said. "But I am optimistic at this stage."

Mr. Perry was visiting U.S. forces bolstered by the weekend arrival of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

In Baghdad, Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi said earlier that Iraq had ordered the withdrawal of its last crack Republican Guard in the south.

"It is time to pull back this force to its former positions,

in keeping with its training programme," said Mr. Hammadi, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency.

Mr. Hammadi did not specify the division in question but said his announcement concerned "the Iraqi force ... about which the Americans have raised such a fuss."

The latest Gulf standoff erupted on Oct. 7 after Iraqi troops massed near the Kuwaiti border, triggering a

major deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf to prevent a replay of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Mr. Perry left open the possibility of a military strike if Iraq fails to withdraw its troops to pre-crisis positions, and said the crisis will not be over until the withdrawal is complete.

"I'm not making threats, I'm not rattling sabers. I'm just stating facts. We are not

prepared to be pinned down here for a long period of time. We expect a prompt return of Iraqi troops," Mr. Perry said.

With tension easing in the Gulf, attention shifted to the United Nations and growing rift between the United States and Russia on how to deal with Iraq.

Washington and London have sponsored a resolution that would bar Iraq from

redeploying Republican Guard units near the Kuwaiti border or hosting other forces there. They wanted to vote on it Saturday.

But Russia wants to delay the vote until after Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrives on Sunday, and its U.N. Ambassador Vassily Sidorov threatened Saturday to veto the resolution if proposed Russian amendments were not adopted.

He said Russia wanted the resolution to reflect a joint Iraqi-Russian statement in which Baghdad offered to recognise Kuwait and Moscow pledged to work for the lifting of sanctions in force against Iraq since its invasion of the emirate four years ago.

The United States has dismissed the Iraqi offer, saying Iraq must comply with all U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war and that to lift the sanctions would reward Iraq for triggering the new standoff.

Britain also rejected it, calling the offer "inadequate."

But France stopped short of lining up behind its Gulf war allies. On Friday Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he was sceptical of the Iraqi offer, but on Saturday he said that if Iraq takes "this decision swiftly and unambiguously then that will be a new issue which we will have to take into account."

The French, while not insisting on a Security Council

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U.S. Navy flight deck personnel rush around an F/A-18C Hornet preparing to take off from the USS George Washington sailing off the coasts of Kuwait (AFP photo)



Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide brought him to Port-au-Prince from Washington D.C. on Saturday (AFP photo)

## Aristide returns home after three years in exile

PONT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — President Jean-Bertrand Aristide flew back to Haiti on a U.S. government jetliner Saturday, ending three years of exile and completing an important step in the American effort to bring democracy to the country.

But many Haitians were nervous, too, on the eve of Mr. Aristide's homecoming, fearful that his remaining political enemies especially in Haiti's right-wing paramilitary groups — might disrupt it with new bloodshed, or his supporters might turn violently vengeful for three years of repression.

The 20,000-member U.S. military force here was on heightened alert, more than two dozen Sheridan light tanks took up strategic posts in the capital, and U.S. helicopters crisscrossed the skies.

American troops manned sandbag positions atop the national palace.

In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton said the return of Mr. Aristide to Haiti marks the start of a new era for that country.

"Even as I speak with you this morning," the president said in his weekly radio address, "Haiti's first democratically-elected president is flying home to resume his rightful place at the helm of his country."

The president praised U.S. troops with doing a "remarkable job in moving Haiti from fear to freedom" and said Mr. Aristide's return marks "the start of a new era of hope for the Haitian people."

The challenges facing the Aristide government are huge.

Dodd and Tom Harkin, as well as members of the congressional black caucus.

Mr. Aristide, wearing a red and blue presidential sash, waved to the crowd as he stepped off the plane. The dignitaries clapped, and the new army commander, Major-General Jean-Claude Duperval, executed a long salute to his president.

The Haitian military band played the national anthem, and Mr. Aristide, standing at Duperval's side, placed his hand on his heart.

Crews unloaded from the plane a blue chair, made by orphans, that Mr. Aristide used as president. Mr. Aristide then boarded a helicopter for the presidential palace.

Haitians by the thousands had streamed into Port-au-Prince and to the airport to greet the returning president.

"He is our saviour," shouted one old man totting a picture of the little bearded priest.

U.S. soldiers guarded the airplane and dignitaries, including U.S. Ambassador William Swing and Mr. Aristide's cabinet, greeted Mr. Aristide as he descended from the plane and took his first steps on Haitian soil since the coup.

Accompanying Mr. Aristide were Mr. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Senators Christopher

## Clinton: Killing will not turn back Mideast peace

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said Saturday was a "day of sorrow" because of the murder of an Israeli soldier in a commando operation but vowed the incident would not turn back the cause of peace in the Middle East.

The president told a political rally that Corporal Nachshon Waxman had been "murdered by terrorists who are the enemies of peace in the Middle East."

"He was a son of Israel, but many of you might know he was also a citizen of the United States," Mr. Clinton said.

"Our prayers and our hearts go out to the people of Israel and to the Waxman family as we say to them, the United States will stand with you in the cause of peace in the Middle East. We have come too far to turn back and we must not let the wrecks and the killers turn us back today," Mr. Clinton said.

The president spoke at an airport rally for the Democratic candidate for Connecticut governor.

Earlier Clinton spokeswoman Ginny Terzani said Mr. Clinton called Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday night and

expressed his "deepest sympathy" on the death of Waxman.

Israeli opposition parties on Saturday came out in support of the unsuccessful commando raid ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on a guerrilla hideout near Jerusalem to rescue Waxman.

Guerrillas shot dead the soldier and one of the rescuers when the Israeli troops stormed their house in Bir Nabala in the occupied West Bank on Friday evening.

"He was a son of Israel, but many of you might know he was also a citizen of the United States," Mr. Clinton said.

"Our prayers and our hearts go out to the people of Israel and to the Waxman family as we say to them, the United States will stand with you in the cause of peace in the Middle East. We have come too far to turn back and we must not let the wrecks and the killers turn us back today," Mr. Clinton said.

"It was the right decision because the alternative to yield and surrender to terrorist demands would consign many innocent lives for future hostage-taking and future death," said Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main opposition party Likud.

Mr. Netanyahu, whose

## PNA faces possible showdown with Hamas after kidnap arrests

#### Combined agency dispatches

GAZA CITY — Moving towards a showdown, thousands of Islamist activists rallied against Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chief Yasser Arafat's rule Saturday, and vigilantes threatened to "make Gaza burn" if arrests of fundamentalists continue.

Mr. Arafat's self-rule government urged Israel to resume talks on expanding autonomy and to reopen Israel to Gaza workers, saying the sanctions imposed after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier played into the hands of extremists.

The hostage, Nachshon Waxman, 19, was shot dead Friday during an army raid on the kidnappers' West Bank hideout. Waxman's three captors and an Israeli commando were also killed.

Hamas, the Muslim fundamentalist group which held the fundamentalist Hamas movement rally in Gaza City to protest the killing of three Hamas



Thousands of Palestinian students supporting men in the West Bank village of Bir Nabala (AFP photo)

was reluctant to crack down, fearing his fragile government might not survive a confrontation in the streets.

But after the kidnapping, Mr. Rabin turned up the pressure, insisting that the hostage was held in Gaza and that Mr. Arafat was solely responsible for the soldier's fate.

In response, Mr. Arafat ordered the arrest sweeps.

Ahmad Bahar, a Hamas leader, accused Mr. Arafat of surrendering to the Israelis.

"The Palestinian authority has taken a decision to control the use of arms. Only people with licensed weapons

will be able to use them. The use of weapons in public places will not be allowed."

"We will not permit any-

said Mr. Tayeb Abdul Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian authority.

Earlier on Saturday, about 1,000 angry Palestinians marched in Gaza to demand that Mr. Arafat release the detained Hamas supporters.

Hamas statements threatened both Mr. Rabin

with more kidnappings, and

Mr. Arafat if Hamas follow-

ers were not released from

Israeli and Palestinian jails.

"The Palestinian authority

which arrested hundreds of

Hamas activists and sup-

porters must release them im-

mediately. If these arrests

continue, Qassam brigades

will reply by setting the Gaza

Strip ablaze on the heads of

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ies," said the statement faxed to news organisations.

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Mr. Netanyahu, whose

brother was killed in an

Israeli rescue operation of

hijacked Air France passen-

gers at Entebbe in 1976, said

the operation had been risky

but necessary.

"There's really no alternative except to fight back and in this matter at least I support the government and Prime Minister Rabin completely," he told Israel Radio.

"When you embark on something like this you have to assume that both hostages and rescuers may die as indeed happened tragically here," he said.

Rafael Eitan, head of the right-wing Tzomet Party and a former army chief, said the raid followed Israel's tradition.

"I think I would have taken the same decision not to give in to terrorism, to go with strength, and do the best possible according to tradition," he told the radio.

However, an Israeli official said Israel did consider freeing the founder of Hamas in exchange for the Israeli.

Yossi Ginnosar, appointed by Mr. Rabin to coordinate efforts to free Waxman, said he heard the proposal for a

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## After costly dreams Iraq may have to forget Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — After a disastrous war, crippling sanctions and decades of calling it part of their country, Iraqis may have to abandon their dream of taking over Kuwait.

Baghdad's announcement on Thursday that it was ready to recognise Kuwait surprised many who grew up reading school textbooks that called the emirate an integral part of Iraq.

"We have tried all possible ways, children died, many starved and the economy is in a shambles — all for Kuwait. It is no longer worth it," one Baghdad resident said on Friday.

"I am happy that soon in the throat is over," said a Baghdad university professor.

But the troubled history of relations with the emirate so richly endowed with oil will be hard to forget.

"This government has done more than any other to recover the lost land. And now we will have to live with the hard facts we refused to accept for almost eight decades," said the professor, who asked not to be identified.

The decision could finally put to rest an issue that created instability in the region long before President Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion brought it before the world.

Known to the ancient world as Mesopotamia, Iraq later formed part of Turkey's Ottoman empire until World War I when it came under British rule.

Emir Faisal Ben Hussein, a member of the Hashemite Dynasty, became king in 1921 and the country regained full independence from Britain in 1952.

A military coup toppled the monarchy in 1958 and set off a period of political instability. The left-wing nationalist government of Brigadier Abdul Karim Qasim was over, "ending" Iraq's pro-Western stance.

A second coup by the military pan-Arab forces ousted Qasim five years later and the new leaders developed closer ties with Egypt. Martial law was lifted in 1965 and a civilian government inaugurated.

The Sunnis-dominated



'SAFE HOUSE': A view of the house in Bir Nabala, just north of Jerusalem, where Corporal Nachshon Waxman

was held hostage by members of the Islamic Hamas movement on Friday (AFP photo)

## Nasiriyah in centre of new U.S.-Iraqi dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Thousands of Iraqi crack troops digging in around the southern city of Nasiriyah could be back near the Kuwaiti border in a flash if their leader gave the signal.

The desert city, about 160 kilometres north of Kuwait, is linked to the border region by a modern four-lane motorway and a rail line which would provide quick and smooth transportation for any troop movements.

The road was used by Iraqi troops massing for the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait. U.S. forces also used the road when they reached the outskirts of the town near the end of the 1991 Gulf war. They did not enter Nasiriyah itself.

Washington wants Iraq to pull back all its troops moved south of the 32nd Parallel

since last week, when it started the buildup near Kuwait. The parallel — which is also the northern boundary of the allied "no-fly" zone established after the Gulf war — runs about 100 kilometres further north. Iraq said it has kept a unit of its Republican Guards at a camp near Nasiriyah since 1991. Iraq has long maintained a strong military presence in the province, with at least one armoured Republican Guard division there to prevent a repeat of the 1991 insurgency in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Nasiriyah was one of the centres of the rebellion against the regime by members of the country's Shi'ite

Muslim majority, who are concentrated in the south. The rebellion was put down by the same Republican Guard forces, who mercilessly pounded Nasiriyah and other cities with tanks and artillery fire.

Despite the military presence, most of the highway and other routes are controlled by bandits, army deserters or anti-government rebels.

They have made the area unsafe for civilians and sometimes even military vehicles — as a group of foreign journalists on a government-guided tour found out this week when they were robbed of thousands of dollars worth of equipment and valuables.

## Iran voices distrust of U.S. presence in Gulf

JAKARTA (AP) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday expressed distrust over the Washington's motive in sending troops to the Gulf and of an Iraqi commitment to respect Kuwaiti borders.

The Iranian president also criticised the Norwegian Nobel Committee for awarding this year's peace prize to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose government, Mr. Rafsanjani said, had "created four million refugees."

Mr. Rafsanjani said he welcomed any efforts aimed at the "prevention of aggression and adventurism," but added that Washington's reasoning behind building up its military presence in the Gulf was based more on self-interest.

Mr. Rafsanjani told a press conference marking the end of a three-day visit to Indonesia that he did not see any goodwill in the U.S. position over the situation in the Gulf.

"Considering the area, which is rich in oil and petroleum gas, the presence of the U.S. is just after the objectives and aim of the domination over such a valuable region and its assets," he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said that during his talks with President Suharto, the Indonesian leader expressed worries about instability in the Gulf region and the necessity for efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

"The U.S. is looking forward to its further presence and domination in the region, while, of course, Iraq is responsible for having such incidents occurring as well," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani also said he doubted Iraq's announced recognition of Kuwait's post-Gulf war border, and said, "We do not have any good

experiences with the commitments made by Iraq."

He said Iraq had launched a war against Iran despite an agreement on borders signed by the two countries in Algeria in 1975.

If Iraq's "recognition" of Kuwait's borders is "sincere," that shall be good news," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "But we do hope this position will not be taken because of the weaknesses and the dangers that they have placed themselves in."

Mr. Rafsanjani also criticised the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Yitzhak Rabin.

## Iraqis feel their lives, not the government, crumbling

By Neil Macfarquhar  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The counters at Iraqi Airways offices are staffed every morning despite a complete lack of flights to anywhere since the 1991 Gulf war.

Traffic hums across rebuilt bridges, but dirt and garbage collect on streets that once were pristine. A chicken costs an average month's salary.

Iraqis, exhausted by keeping up the facade of normalcy, said Tuesday that the country is crumbling under the weight of an international blockade that has little chance of toppling President Saddam Hussein.

"People want to eat. People want to live in peace. They don't care about the regime. They don't care much about educating themselves. They have lost their ambition," said a schoolteacher named Walid.

There is a sense of relief

that a looming confrontation, brought about by last week's deployment of Iraqi troops near the Kuwaiti border, may be ebbing. After the United States vowed to confront might with might, the Iraqis declared Monday night they were pulling their forces back. The United States, however, is unconvinced.

Foreign diplomats in Baghdad doubt that Iraq is about to repeat its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a seven-month occupation that was ended by a U.S.-led military coalition during the Gulf war.

Iraq was schooled in the old Soviet Union's military tactics, which called for an invading army to have a three-to-one ratio over its target, the diplomats noted, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq has sent an estimated 80,000 troops — one-fifth of its entire military — to the

Kuwaiti border region. Even if Iraq is not pulling them back, that is not enough to oppose the U.S. force of 70,000 that has been summoned to the area.

Iraqis and foreign diplomats say Iraq's threats to use its army again were a desperate ploy that worked: It grabbed the world's attention, pushing the United Nations trade sanctions back into the spotlight.

Iraqi feel their country has been complying with U.N. conditions for lifting the sanctions, which were imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq met one of the main conditions by allowing the U.N. to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and to set up a monitoring system. It hopes an upcoming report by the U.N. Special Commission will lead to a lifting of the sanctions, which cut off oil exports, Iraq's main source of revenue.

In a sign of the chaos that has seeped across the country

since the war ended in February 1991, highway robbers grabbed tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and cash from journalists who travelled by bus to Basra Monday night.

Tuesday's newspapers pictured some of the 4,000 anti-articles they said were pilfered from local museums "during the acts of terrorism in the aftermath of the aggression against the country in 1991."

Three years ago, Iraq was rife with reports of uprisings against the regime. Now the talk is mostly of organised crime with only a whiff of anti-regime undertones.

The trade embargo "is not really a blockade. It is a form of slow murder," said Mohammad, a trader at a tawdry sidewalk bazaar where Iraqis sell personal belongings like stuffed animals, silverware and old eyeglasses to raise a bit of cash for food.

"They tried to topple the government of Iraq. But they

only succeeded in toppling the people," he said.

Mohammad, like most people, gave only his first name. In this country of 18 million, people are suspicious of strangers.

Iraqis say they no longer have the energy to oppose the rule of Saddam Hussein. They are too busy trying to survive.

A chicken costs 750 dinars, about the average monthly wage of a government worker. That is \$2,490 at the official rate, which has not changed since the war. But at the widely used market rate, it is only \$1.20.

Government food rations recently were cut about 40 per cent. Before the cut, the rations of basics like rice and flour were considered the minimum needed to survive.

Medicine is scarce. The U.N. imports allow Iraq to import food and medicine, but it doesn't have the money to pay for them. One woman

in her 50s wanted a painkiller before undergoing a mastectomy. Friends scoured the town for days and finally came up with one ampule just hours before operation. It was diluted to last a few days.

Municipal services are decaying. At the Iraqi Airways office, employees report to work in their uniforms, take their stations behind the counters and drink tea. They are just trying to continue to collect their salaries — and to hope that the U.N. ban on flights will be lifted soon.

Despite Iraqi opposition claims of recent coup attempts, diplomats said there has been no serious internal sign of one since the summer of 1993.

Thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims from Asia were allowed into the shrines at Karbala and Najaf this year, site of some of the worst internal fighting in 1991. Diplomats consider this a sure sign that the regime feels in control of the situation.

## Seminar to study how to raise water awareness

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) today opens a two-week workshop on spreading public awareness in the Kingdom about water and its consumption.

Organised in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the workshop includes lectures on the effects of water on the environment, industrial pollution, water resources, water policies and management, adverse effects of pesticides on water resources, insecticides, water's social and economic impact, laws and legislation concerning water and institutions concerned with water resources and development.

The programme is mainly aimed at orienting schoolchildren on ways for preserving water in Jordan's water resources and to spread awareness among the members of the public on economising on the consumption of water for different purposes, the statement said.

The programme will publish all the lectures in booklets to be distributed to schools and other institutions.

Several water experts from USAID and Jordan will deliver the lectures.

## Jordanian prosecutor to visit New Jersey crime scene

MORRISTOWN (AP) — A Jordanian prosecutor plans to travel to New Jersey to review evidence in the slaying of a woman whose estranged husband killed her and then fled to Jordan with his children, officials said Friday.

Mohammad Ismail Abequa, a nationalised American citizen, confessed to the crime after being detained in Jordan. He has been charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping.

The prosecutor, Fouad Daradekeh, notified Morris County prosecutors about three weeks ago that he plans to travel to New Jersey to visit the crime scene, review evidence and interview witnesses, said Lois Ferguson, spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office.

Although prosecutors would prefer to extradite Mr. Abequa to stand trial here, Ms. Ferguson said, they are pleased that Jordanian officials appear to be making an earnest effort in the case.

The United States and Jordan do not have an extradition treaty, so Mr. Abequa will stand trial in Jordan. A trial date has not been set, she said.

Lawyers said the Jordanian charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years of hard labour in jail.

Mr. Abequa, 46, admitted killing his wife, Nihal, 40, at her apartment in Parsippany-Troy Hills on July 4 in a dispute over the custody of the children. Her body was found two days later stuffed under a bed.

After a six-week stay in Jordan with their father, six-year-old Lisa Abequa and three-year-old Sami Abequa returned to the United States Aug. 18 with their mother's sister, Nesrine Dokur, of Paterson, who travelled to Amman, to gain custody.

## Ali Mahdi rejects accord to hold reconciliation meeting

MOGADISHU (AP) — Intra-Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohammad has rejected Friday's agreement by 12 Somali clan factions, including warlord Mohamud Farah Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA), to hold a Somali reconciliation conference here on Oct. 27.

As a result, Mr. Ali Mahdi, who also accused UNOSOM of failing to invite Somali political leaders from Nairobi and from other regions of Somalia to participate in the coming reconciliation conference, warned: "If the U.N. representative and his deputy did not rectify their mistakes, I would demand their resignation from Somalia on behalf of the 12 factions I am spokesman for."

In his statement, Mr. Gbeho and Omayah have exclusively interfered in Somali affairs when they recognised and allowed self-appointed chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), Colonel Abdulla Yusuf, from the Majerteen sub-clan, to sign Friday's memorandum.

As a result, Mr. Ali Mahdi, who also accused UNOSOM of failing to invite Somali political leaders from Nairobi and from other regions of Somalia to participate in the coming reconciliation conference, warned: "If the U.N. representative and his deputy did not rectify their mistakes, I would demand their resignation from Somalia on behalf of the 12 factions I am spokesman for."

The Memorandum is the usual behaviour of General Aideed to sabotage the efforts of the international community and of the Somali people to come together," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

The self-styled Somali president also accused the U.N. Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM), particularly U.N. Special Representative Victor Gbebo and his deputy Hisham Omayah, of siding with Gen. Aideed and threatening to demand their removal from Somalia.

Friday's Memorandum called for the 16 signatories to an earlier peace agreement in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, to take part in the national reconciliation conference on Oct. 27, which would discuss the holding of elections to precede the formation of a government of national unity, but had failed to mention the self-styled interim president.

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PRESENTING CREDENTIALS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassoun Saturday discusses bilateral relations with Denmark's Ambassador-Designate to Jordan Anders Brandstrup who presented his credentials to the minister earlier (Petra photo)

## Inspection, control bureau reports it saved state treasury JD 2.2m

AMMAN (Petra) — In the past four months alone, the efforts of the Administrative Inspection and Control Bureau have saved the state treasury JD 2.221 million, according to acting bureau chief Eid Shakhaneh. Also, Dr. Shakhaneh said, the bureau's examination of 14 government departments during the same period, uncovered and rectified 151 violations.

While conducting its work, bureau inspectors provided advice on the restructuring of departments, and on keeping accurate records and registers of their activities and staff performance, Dr. Shakhaneh added.

The chief said the bureau

has been urging government offices to abide by regulations stipulated in the Civil Service Commission's statute concerning allowances for employees, selection of staff and appointments and matters regarding supply and purchases as well as controlling expenditures.

Referring to semi-independent companies, in which the state holds equity, Dr. Shakhaneh said that a related study of these companies' performance for 1991, 1992 and 1993 will be submitted to the Prime Ministry.

At present the bureau is preparing recommendations to the government concerning the status and service of

legal consultants attached to government departments and questions related to the extra allowances given to employees in certain departments, Dr. Shakhaneh announced.

The bureau, he said, welcomes comments, complaints and grievances by government officials, and to date, it has dealt with 50 such cases in correcting related problems.

In a bid to fulfil the government's aim of establishing a decentralised system, Dr. Shakhaneh said the bureau plans to open two branches in Irbid and Aqaba to deal with issues concerning government departments in the north and south of Jordan respectively.



REVIEWING EDUCATIONAL TIES: Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh meets at his office Saturday with Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Naser Abdul Aziz Al Naser. The ambassador delivered an invitation to the minister to visit Qatar next month to sign an executive programme for the implementation of a Jordanian-Qatari cultural, educational and scientific agreement for the years 1994 through 1996 (Petra photo)

## Women's organisations in battle over name

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Woman's Union (JWU) recently issued a statement condemning what it sees as slanderous attacks on the union since changing its name last April.

The statement said that the union had been subjected to a hostile campaign, including accusations of embezzlement within the union.

"We assure every one that the union's financial documents, reports and the annual budget are clear and precise and have been conducted according to the union's by-laws, and we can prove it," said Asma Khader.

president of the JWU. In addition, Ms. Khader said that since the name alteration, the union has been excluded from major events.

On July 28, the union officially changed its name from the Jordanian Women's Union to the Jordanian Woman's Union. The change was effectively minor; from the plural, women's to the singular, woman's.

The union's move came in response to a Ministry of Social Development request to either merge with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) or change its name. The union opted for the name change.

Ms. Khader said hostilities reached a peak when the GFJW filed a law suit against

the JWU as well as against Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, who had signed the approval for the JWU's name and by-laws changes.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the GFJW, told the Jordan Times that there were several reasons why her organisation filed suit.

First, she said that the name change caused confusion among people, and "they can not distinguish between the two unions any more."

She also said that "the Minister of Interior is not the concerned authority to register or change the name and internal laws of such unions."

She added that the word "union" does not apply to the JWU because it accepts sing-

le memberships. And, according to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, "unions usually accept group members, not individual membership, hence, the name union should not apply to the JWU, and instead they should be referred to as a society."

According to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, the GFJW had asked the JWU to merge with them and suggested changing a section in the GFJW by-laws to accept the JWU, but the union refused the idea.

But Ms. Khader maintained that it was she who had suggested the merger, and that it was the GFJW who had refused.

The case will be heard in court on Oct. 22, Ms. Khader said.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Envoy presents credentials to King Harald

OSLO (Petra) — Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Norway, Samir Khalifeh, presented his credentials to King Harald V in Oslo on Friday and conveyed to the Norwegian monarch greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and his best wishes to the Norwegian people.

### Iraqi-Jordanian Transport Company meets in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The joint Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company's board of directors Saturday met in Baghdad under the chairmanship of general manager, Awad Tall, to discuss an executive plan for the company's operations. Discussion will cover a report about operations in 1993 and prospects for increasing the company's fleet of trucks.

### Visiting Iraqi minister visits university

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Iraqi Minister of Higher Education Hammad Abdul Khaleq and his delegation Saturday visited the University of Jordan and discussed cooperation with University's Vice President Mohammad Maqusi. The Iraqi minister later called at the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and discussed cooperation in technological fields.

### Disi residents submit demands to government

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the residents of Disi and four neighbouring settlements in the southern Jordanian desert called Saturday on Minister of State Abdallah Jazi and presented their requests to the government. The delegation asked that the government speed up plans for the distribution of land and for carrying out agricultural projects. They also demanded that private companies currently developing lands in their area employ local workers rather than workers from other areas.

## 'The Lights of Jericho' illuminate a dying nation

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The radio play, "The Lights of Jericho", faces a task which has proved extremely difficult for Arab artists — addressing Western audiences about what is taking place on the other side of the Jordan River.

Scepticism over the chances of this drama is raised by the fact that despite the repeated attempts of many capable people before now, Western audiences in general continue to demonstrate only lukewarm sympathy for the Palestinians, for various reasons.

But to shut off all hope that the ghostly voices inhabiting the soundtrack of "The Lights of Jericho" will ever be heard may still be premature — they are desperate, they have teeth, and they bite.

Never mind that the stage performance of the drama in Darat Al Funun, which expanded on the original radio soundtrack with choreographed actor-

### Conference on cancer to open

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day Jordanian Medical Conference opens at the University of Jordan on Tuesday to discuss cancer, according to an announcement Saturday by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), the meeting's organiser.

Planned in cooperation with the university, the conference is expected to discuss 150 working papers dealing with early detection of cancer and cancer prevention, according to Nabil Muammar, head of the conference's executive committee.

Dr. Muammar said that the conference was planned to precede the formal opening later this year of the Al Aman Cancer Centre near the University of Jordan and in view of the need to focus public attention on the need to combat this disease and contribute to financing the treatment of cancer patients.

Dr. Muammar said an exhibition of medical equipment and drugs used in the treatment of cancer will be opened at the university during the conference.

So far, the denizens of playwright and actress Haya Hussein's drama, villagers and farmers who can only wait and watch inside their houses under curfew as their homes, cropfields, and children slowly vanish, have managed to gain some success for their playwright.

"The Lights of Jericho" has won two official prizes in Western arenas — the Prix Italia award as a radio drama, and another from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation itself.

The battle for Arab artists who are putting forth such Western-oriented works on the Palestinian issue remains locked on an uphill course, but Ms. Hussein's play regains hope that future years may yet bring some successes in this severely difficult area of endeavour.

Ghassan Kanafani's literary work "Men Under the Sun" should be mentioned, as the performance brochure printed by Darat Al Funun mentions it as the inspiration for the play's material.

## Arab Israelis voice appreciation to Jordan

### Knesset member Darawshe seeks to advance relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Israeli Knesset member Abdul Wahab Darawshe Saturday said that Arab Israelis appreciated the Jordanian government's continued service to the Palestinian refugees living in the Kingdom.

Speaking at a meeting with Asem Ghosheh, director general of the Palestine Affairs Department, Mr. Darawshe, who is accompanied by a 65-member Arab-Israeli delegation, said that the Jordanian government has been shouldering heavy financial burdens to provide services for the displaced Palestinians. He said he hoped that the Jordanian and Palestinian people would find ways to advance their bilateral relations in all fields.

Earlier Mr. Darawshe and the delegation visited the Bader Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan and paid tribute to the Jordanian Armed Forces for their training of the Palestinian troops.

Later he watched a military parade by the Palestinian forces as well as exercises in martial arts.



TAKING UP WOMEN'S ISSUES: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday receives at her office a group of Arab-Israeli women who are part of a 65-member delegation accompanying Israeli Knesset member Abdul Wahab Darawshe. The Princess and the team discussed women's affairs. The visiting women briefed the Princess on the Arab women's unions

under Israeli rule which are concerned with cultural, educational, social and political fields. Princess Basma briefed the visitors on the activities of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) and also outlined the Jordanian women's strategy and current preparations for the Kingdom's participation in the world conference on women to be held in Beijing next year. (Petra photo)

## Aqaba Ports Corporation to start second phase of dust control

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of the beginning of 1995 the Aqaba Ports Corporation (APC) will start the second phase of a pollution elimination project targeting phosphate dust pollution, according to Yousef Salah, director of the port's platforms and quays.

Mr. Salah, an engineer, said phosphate dust falls during the loading of the mineral from stores to shipping vessels.

Speaking at a ceremony held in Aqaba to mark the Arab Environment Day Saturday, Mr. Salah said the APC has succeeded in eliminating nearly 90 per cent of the falling dust through the installation of two choke

feeder systems (dust control devices) at the cost of \$500,000 in the past year.

The second phase, he said, entails cutting down on dust pollution resulting from the unloading of phosphates from transport trucks to the stores at the harbour. He added that this phase is expected to cost JD 250,000.

A third phase, according to Mr. Salah, will seek to eliminate dust pollution from the transport of phosphate by trains to the stores, at an expected cost of JD 500,000.

He also said that the municipality has been allocating JD 120,000 each year for the plantation of trees and the cultivation of gardens to help purify and beautify the Aqaba area.

## Czech envoy sees hope for expansion of bilateral ties

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The potential for regional stability in the wake of the Middle East peace process, and the transformation of the Czech Republic to a democratic, parliamentary constitution, augurs well for the intensification of relations between Jordan and the republic, Czech Charge d'Affaires Karel Rasinger told the Jordan Times.

"Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have always been friendly. We believe that conditions are now very favourable for an expansion of relations in different fields of cooperation — in trade, cultural exchange, education etc." said Mr. Rasinger.

"The Czech Republic has traditionally maintained intensive relations with the Arab World, which is geographically located so close to Europe and the stability of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 as the beginning of its contemporary statehood.

At the end of 1989, "the constitution of the country was changed, thus legally terminating the role of the Communist Party as the leading force in the society," Mr. Rasinger said.

Since the 1989 election of Vaclav Havel as President of Czechoslovakia, economic transformation, including privatisation, liberalisation of prices, foreign trade and currency exchange rates, abolition of state

subsidies and other measures, has necessitated the passing of parliamentary bills and the introduction of institutions organised to serve the transformation's needs. Mr. Rasinger told the Jordan Times.

The Czech Republic will be celebrating its national day on Oct. 28.

Despite more than six years of Nazi occupation and 40 years of communist rule, Mr. Rasinger says that the Czech nation has always considered the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 as the beginning of its contemporary statehood.

In spite of reduced trade with other ex-communist countries and the upheavals caused by economic transformation, the Czech economy has become very stable; the foreign exchange rate has maintained the same value since January 1991; foreign trade is balanced, as is the country's budget.

Unemployment has been retained below 3.5-4 per cent, and this year the country expects to witness 1-2 per cent growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

Mr. Rasinger said that the Czech deputy minister of finance recently visited Jordan and "conducted very useful talks with Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh and the Ministry of Trade secretary-general."

Currently, bilateral trade

is small. Mr. Rasinger estimated that Czech exports to Jordan stand at \$8.5 million annually, while Jordanian exports to the republic account for "some several hundred thousand dollars."

The main Jordanian import from the Czech Republic is small cars, he added.

Regarding foreign debts, he said that Jordan had no standing debts with the republic.

Mr. Rasinger also said, "the Czech Republic's current position of development is not conducive to aiding projects here."

In addition to encouraging Czech investment in Jordan he said, "the stability of the region is one incentive, but the two countries need to gain experience of one another as neither the Czech market nor Jordanian companies are well-known."

In the past, the public provided educational scholarships to Jordan. Mr. Rasinger said he hopes to reintroduce similar scholarships next year.

"I really admire the high level of education evident in the Kingdom and I find the cultural side of life fascinating," he said.

In another bid to strengthen ties, Mr. Rasinger will play a role in the Kublik Trio from Prague will play at the Royal Cultural Centre.

He also mentioned the possibility of Czech archaeologists, like those involved in projects in Egypt, embarking on projects here.

Other political and economic government-level delegations are planned for the future.

"We believe that the exchange of delegations will follow in favour of better mutual understanding and promotion of intensive cooperation," Mr. Rasinger concluded.

Mr. Rasinger, who was appointed chargé d'affaires last December, was the first assigned Czech representative to the Kingdom in two and a half years.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### SEMINAR

★ Seminar entitled "Social and Political Structures in the Orient and Oxident" with the participation of Dr. Volker Perthes, Dr. Arnold Hottinger, and Dr. Mohammad Kheir Mustafa at Abdul Hameed Sharaf Auditorium, University of Jordan at 3:30 p.m.

### CONCERT

★ Concert by Czech Kublik Trio with violinist Jan Talich, cellist Karel Fiala, and pianist Kvita Bilynska at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### FILM

★ Film entitled "Arachnophobia" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

### PLAY

★ Play entitled "A Journey Through American Comedy" by the Artists Repertory Group at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Has the Time Come for Lifting the Sanctions Imposed on the Iraqi People — the Available Options" by Dr. Ghassan Al Atiyah at Abdul Hameed Sharaf Auditorium, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

## Britain to speak to Sinn Fein soon — top unionist

BELFAST (R) — Britain will talk to the IRA's political allies by Christmas, a leading Northern Ireland Protestant politician said Saturday.

The British Broadcasting Corporation said James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, told him in an interview he believed London would open exploratory talks by Christmas with Sinn Fein and politicians close to Protestant guerrillas.

Sinn Fein is the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which proclaimed a ceasefire in its 25-year campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland on Sept. 1.

Britain wants to be convinced the decision is permanent before setting up talks.

On Friday, Protestant guerrilla forces hastening to keep the province British also announced a ceasefire, opening up the best prospects for an all-round peace that Northern Ireland has seen in

25 years.

The BBC said he had disclosed that, in the lead-up to the Protestant guerrillas' ceasefire, he had consultations with so-called "loyalist" politicians who were close to the guerrillas.

Mr. Molyneaux, a consistent opponent of extremist violence on both sides of the Northern Ireland conflict, said he felt it is his duty to speak with them.

"If I hadn't done that and if another hundred people had been murdered before Christmas, I couldn't have lived with my conscience," he said.

Political sources say he gave the loyalists politicians vital assurances which helped clinch the Protestant ceasefire.

They say he assured them Northern Ireland's links with Britain were safe and British Prime Minister John Major was not going to force the province into unity with the Catholic-dominated Republic

of Ireland.

The BBC said Mr. Molyneaux also forecast that Northern Ireland would have its own elected assembly next year as part of new government structures for the region.

Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, accused Britain Friday of slowing down the search for peace in Northern Ireland by refusing to hold early talks with his party.

"Instead of trying to slow down the process of change, the British government should be seeking to move it forward in a pro-active manner which allows the people of Ireland to reach a democratic agreement."

All sides in battle-scarred Northern Ireland applauded the decisions of the rival guerrilla groups to lay down their arms and pursue their objectives through politics.

The truce announcement by two outlawed Protestant guerrilla groups, the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) and Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), underlined peace prospects seven weeks after the Irish Republican Army gave up its 25-year guerrilla war to end British rule.

"Together with the Dublin

government, it (Britain) should initiate peace talks immediately involving all parties and covering all aspects of relationships on these islands," Mr. Adams, who is in New York, said in a statement issued in Belfast.

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French Industry Minister Gérard Longuet (center) leaves Matignon, French prime minister's residence, after he announced his resignation at a meeting with French Premier Edouard Balladur. Mr. Longuet resigned

amid allegations of corruption involving the financing of his holiday home and other accusations involving party funds. Speaking on the Matignon steps, he said he intended to prove his innocence (AFP photo)

## Balladur hopes cabinet minister's departure will ease pressure

PARIS (R) — Prime minister Edouard Balladur, his government and his presidential aspirations shaken by a growing corruption scandal, hopes his troubles are behind him with the resignation of Industry Minister Gérard Longuet.

But politicians and analysts said new problems could lie ahead. Other cabinet members' names have surfaced in connection with a series of corruption probes plaguing the Balladur government in recent weeks.

A planned cabinet shakeup could further rattle the public's view of the prime minister — and of his suitability to lead France — seven months before presidential elections in which he is expected to be a candidate.

Budget Minister Nicholas Sarkozy said a reshuffle would not be announced before Monday, French media reported.

Jean Glavany, spokesman for the opposition Socialist Party, said Mr. Balladur was "getting entangled a little more every day in affairs that prevent him from governing freely."

"Balladur in the storms," the daily *France-Soir* said in a front-page headline.

Liberation newspaper said a sword of Damocles would continue to hang over the government as long as other ministers believed to be linked to corruption probes remained in the cabinet.

The daily said it was an

open question as to whether the right, which came to power after a rout of the Socialists in 1993 because of corruption scandals on the left and high unemployment, would be able to recover.

Mr. Longuet, 43, resigned Friday after coming under investigation in corruption probes involving a holiday villa and the finances of his Republican Party.

"I don't want to contribute, one way or another, to a weakening of the government," he told reporters after a brief meeting with Mr. Balladur.

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A bitter Longuet, whose powerful portfolio covered industry, foreign trade, energy, telecommunications and postal services, told reporters on the steps of the prime minister's office: "I have condemned before being given a hearing."

His departure capped a disastrous week for Mr. Balladur, whose former communications minister, Alain Carignon, was jailed last Wednesday on suspicion of accepting bribes.

Opinion polls showed Socialist European Commission President Jacques Delors has virtually caught up with Mr. Balladur in the undeclared race to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, while Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, Mr. Balladur's main rival on the right, set up a shadow campaign staff.

In a statement, Mr. Balladur praised Mr. Longuet's "effective and dynamic action" and said he understood why he was resigning.

Earlier Friday a businessman told the judge probing Republican Party funding that he had negotiated an under-the-table cash payment with Mr. Longuet in connection with the purchase of the party's Paris headquarters.

"The interesting thing in the case is whether the name would offend an individual. It's all about how the general public would perceive it — in Sweden there are very few who understand what Belial means," Oerebro county councillor Tommy Svensson said.

## 12-year-old jailed for withholding diary

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AFP) — A 12-year-old girl was incarcerated and jailed for refusing a judge's order to hand over her diary as evidence in the trial of her father, a detective, whom she accused of molesting her. Judge Robert Carney sentenced the girl to five days in juvenile detention for contempt of court, but promptly released her on appeal, her lawyer Howard Finkelstein said Thursday. The diary, requested by defence lawyers, apparently contains no mention of the alleged molestation, which could favour the father's plea of innocence. "There's nothing in this diary but little girl thoughts," Mr. Finkelstein said. Judge Carney said he was trying to send a message to the girl for refusing to hand over her diary on three separate occasions since August. Judge Carney removed himself from the case after the girl said she was afraid of him. The trial has been delayed until a new judge is appointed. The identities of the girl and her father were not released. He was suspended from the police force with pay after he was arrested last year and charged with indecent assault, which carries a maximum prison sentence of seven years.

## Court allows man to call himself Devil Christ Jesus

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swedish court on Saturday overturned a decision denying a Swede the right to prefix his name with Belial Christos Jesus, translated literally from Hebrew as The Devil Christ Jesus. The Swedish tax authorities, who must approve all name changes, had denied the 22-year-old man's request because the names would be offensive. Belial is the Hebrew name used in the Old Testament for the Devil. The Oerebro district court overruled and said that the names would not be offensive to many few Swedes would understand the meaning.

"Five other ministers in the

Balladur cabinet have been

named in the media as figuring in graft probes or failing to distance themselves from corruption.

## Wife offers heart in wedding vows

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — Victoria Ingram pledged her heart to Randall Curlee as well as her kidney during a hospital wedding service Tuesday. For Curlee, 46, a diabetic in need of a kidney replacement, Ingram's wedding gift could be one that lasts a lifetime. "I just can't express it," Curlee said after the wedding.

For India, its ability to launch satellites is also a matter of prestige, of proving to the world that its scientific community stands at par with the best.

But even at home there is constant criticism of the expense of the programme. Many say the money should be spent on social issues in a country of 900 million containing a majority of the world's people who live in absolute poverty.

## Shanghai to ban smoking in all public places

SHANGHAI (R) — Shanghai will ban smoking in all indoor public places starting on Dec. 1, the *Wenhui Daily* reported Friday. No-smoking signs will be posted in cinemas, theatres, concert halls, indoor sports arenas, libraries, museums, art galleries, exhibition centres, hospitals and kindergartens in China's largest city. Smokers also will be barred from lighting up in large shops and on public transport, the newspaper said.

But there are also those who oppose joining on security grounds, saying Finland would give up its neutrality and risk becoming an early victim of any confrontation between East and West.

The Finnish centre-right government of Prime Minister Esko Aho has repeatedly stressed that Finland in no way feels threatened, and would retain its policy of military non-alignment and independent defence as an EU member.

Polling stations open at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) Sunday and close at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) with the outcome expected to be clear within an hour.

## Simpson jury selection pace quickens

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leaks of false information haven't damaged O.J. Simpson's right to a fair trial, and the unmasking of lies may have helped his case, a judge said Friday in refusing a defense request to explore news leaks.

But Superior Court Judge Lance Ito also dealt a blow to the prosecution. He refused to reopen the issue of whether there were tactical delays in sending evidence — including a bloody glove found behind Simpson's estate — out for DNA testing.

Judge Ito said he had clearly indicated to the prosecution's DNA expert, "you are about to lose" and she had failed to present further arguments to dissuade him from throwing out some of the evidence.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark asked Judge Ito if prosecutors could supplement the record. But the judge was unmoved. "How often do I have to hear these arguments?" he asked.

He promised to rule Monday on whether the DNA tests on the blood from glove, blood in Simpson's Bronco and blood on Simpson's driveway will be allowed.

Judge Ito also refused to convene a hearing on a defense motion to find the source of persistent news leaks.

"Before conducting a hearing I would have to find some prejudice to the defendant or that his rights are being trampled upon," Judge Ito said. "I think it is to his benefit that false reports in the press have been unmasked, from the ski mask to the entrenching tool to the false DNA reports."

Simpson's lawyers had subpoenaed two members of a TV news team, the police chief and his spokesman to try to find the source of the leaks they contend have prejudiced Simpson's chances for a fair trial.

Simpson, a former football great, television sports commentator and movie star, has pleaded innocent to murder charges in the June 12 slaying death of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

The hearing came after a half-day of jury selection, during which prospective jurors were pressed to reveal their feelings about Simpson and to discuss the tape recording of a call to Emergency Services, 911, in which Simpson's ex-wife pleaded for help.

"Do you think some people are just prone to call the police just because they over-react?" lead defense attorney Robert Shapiro said. A 63-year-old retired engineer.

"I imagine some of the calls to 911 fall into that category," the man said.

Judge Ito and lawyers screened five potential panelists in a half-day session, bringing to eight the number of people who have been questioned. He sent prospective home until Monday.

During questioning, the prospects seemed familiar with Simpson's fame — although one non-sports fan said she thought Simpson was a basketball player.

## Manila blames Communist rebels for talks collapse

AMSTERDAM (R) — Peace talks in the Netherlands between the Philippine government and Communist rebels have collapsed, with Manila accusing the insurgents of acting in bad faith.

The five-man government panel, in a statement issued in Amsterdam and released in Manila, said the rebels used a demand for safety guarantees for their men to seek "full equality" in negotiations.

"As far as we are concerned it is not possible to continue talks under the current circumstances," the rebels' chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni told Reuters in a telephone interview from their base in the central Dutch town of Utrecht.

Negotiations between the two sides, repeatedly held up by disputes, had aimed to forge a common agenda for formal negotiations to end the 24-year-old insurgency.

The collapse of the talks, the third round of preliminary discussions, is not expected to lead to renewed major fighting in the Philippines. The number of rebels has declined sharply to less than 7,000 from a peak of over 25,000 in 1987.

The Communist movement has split in the last year, with most rebel leaders in the Philippines forming their own group. This larger group has told the government it would be willing to open preliminary talks.

The Communists in turn accused the government of renegeing on issues of safety guarantees and immunity from prosecution.

They said the government tabled a "patronising" prop-

## Berlusconi heads for home after Russia visit

MOSCOW (AFP) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi headed for home Saturday after a three-day trip to Russia marked by the signing of a cooperation and friendship treaty.

Mr. Berlusconi and his wife Veronica were seen off at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport by Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and his wife, ITAR-TASS reported.

Earlier, the Italian premier had attended mass in Moscow's Catholic cathedral and gone on a brief walkabout in the city.

Italy is Moscow's second largest creditor and second largest commercial partner after Germany.

President Yeltsin and Mr. Berlusconi signed a friendship and cooperation treaty here in a bid to underpin healthy economic relations and ended their first summit with an appeal for European unity.

The two leaders also pledged their countries would "cooperate efficiently against organised crime, drugs trafficking and all forms of contraband," ITAR-TASS quoted their accord as saying.

Mr. Yeltsin said Friday's treaty, which replaces a 1989 Soviet-Italian pact, constitutes "a good basic" for future cooperation. He also welcomed the "extremely dynamic" nature of trade between Russia and Italy, praising the quality of Italian goods and technology.

At an evening gala dinner in the Kremlin, Mr. Yeltsin called for a "Europe without barriers," without divisions between its elected (representatives) and the rest," ITAR-TASS said.

Warning to his theme, the Russian leader adapted the electoral slogan with which Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia took power earlier this year, to propose a toast of "Forza Europa."

All Mr. Berlusconi's sources agreed the fifth man went on to have a successful business and political career. Baron Rothschild, who succeeded his uncle as Baron Rothschild in 1937, was an accomplished sportsman, jazz musician, scientist, writer and businessman.

Accusations against Baron Rothschild are nothing new.

At Cambridge University in the 1930s he joined an exclusive debating society known as the Apostles which included Burgess, MacLean, Philby and Blunt. During World War II Burgess, Blunt and Philby used his London apartment and he sometimes visited a drinking club where Philby, Burgess and Blunt were regulars.

Baron Rothschild worked for British military intelligence during World War II and was known to have left-wing sympathies.

"We can as a nation ourselves choose what group of European peoples we want to belong to," it said.

The Nordic nation of five million, on the northern rim of Europe and bigger in size than EU members Britain and Italy, seems set to vote in favour of joining the 12-nation grouping.

An opinion poll published by Helsingin Sanomat Saturday said 47 per cent supported membership, 28 per cent were opposed and the rest had not yet made up their minds.

About 30 per cent of eligi-

## Indian rocket puts satellite into space

SRIHARIKOTA, India (R) — India successfully launched a satellite into orbit Saturday aboard an experimental rocket which it hopes will bring it membership of the elite club of space nations.

Scientists at the launch control centre at Sriharikota, on the coast of the southern state of Tamil Nadu near Madras, were jubilant as the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) took an 870 kg remote sensing satellite into orbit without problems.

India says the \$135 million PSLV is for purely peaceful purposes and is part of its ambitious plans to join the commercial space club of countries which can charge high fees to launch satellites.

# World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994 5

## Over 2,000 ex-soldiers train for Rwanda's new army

KIGALI (AFP) — More than 2,000 soldiers from Rwanda's former army, defeated in July by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), are training at a camp at Gako in the south in order to join the country's new military, U.N. officials said Saturday in Kigali.

Rwandan Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said Wednesday that a high number of former soldiers who had left the country after their defeat in three months of conflict have decided to return to Rwanda for "political education."

General Kagame did not specify how many former soldiers were returning.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) commander, General Guy Toussaint, visited the Gako military camp Friday and called it a "reorganisation school," in a U.N. statement, UNAMIR military spokesman Captain Stephane Grenier said.

"Although the United Nations force in Rwanda comprises troops from 29 nations, we can only play a small part in the rebuilding process of Rwanda," Gen. Toussaint said, telling the troops that "the solution is yours. You have demonstrated a great deal of courage by joining this new national army."

Capt. Grenier said that there are 78 officers at the Gako camp.

The soldiers of the former Hutu-dominated army, who were refugees in Zaire or in the former French humanitarian zone in southwest Rwanda, decided to rejoin the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), the military wing of the Tutsi-led RPF.

Some 20,000 former army troops are still in refugee camps, where some have expressed a desire to return and serve in the new armed forces.

The RPF accuses some former soldiers and extremist Hutu militias of the massacre of up to a million people in the weeks after Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6.

Capt. Grenier also said that the arrival over the last 10 days of some 800 Tunisian soldiers had brought the strength of U.N. mission to 5,433 men, almost the full strength of 5,500 envisaged by the Security Council in May.

A further 700 Zambian and 800 Indian troops are expected in the next few weeks, but UNAMIR will only be over strength for a transition period before 580 British troops leave in November and 364 Canadians in January, he added.

Apart from Tunisia, whose 846 men are mainly deployed in the northwest of the central African highland nation, the largest contingents are those from Ghana (819 men) and Ethiopia (800 men).

UNAMIR was set up in October 1993 to oversee a Rwandan peace accord signed in August that year between the government and the RPF, which had launched its incursion from Uganda in 1990.

Many RPF troops were long-term Tutsi exiles who had served in the Ugandan army. The peace pact, left largely in tatters when the latest bloodletting began, provided for the kind of power-sharing now in practice, though the late President Habyarimana's party is excluded.

Meanwhile, the Security Council asked Rwanda's government Friday to work for national reconciliation, and said regional stabilisation depended on refugees' returning home.

The council said in a statement adopted by consensus that it was deeply concerned about the fate of millions of refugees and displaced people in Rwanda and neighbouring countries who fled from ethnic bloodshed since April.

It also condemned acts of intimidation and violence it said were continuing in refugee camps to try to deter people from returning to their homes.

And it praised the governments of Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi for their commitment to helping to settle the problems from which refugees were fleeing.

The council also urged the new Tutsi-led Rwandan government to continue its dialogue with all political groups

## Bosnian Serb shelling again blocks Sarajevo aid convoys

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations closed the main aid route from the Adriatic to Sarajevo Saturday for the second day running after evacuating about 30 old people from a refugee camp hit when Bosnian Serb forces shelled the road.

Workers from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) completed the evacuation and tried to reopen the road between Mostar and Jablanica at 5 a.m. (0400 GMT). They were forced to close it again when the bombardment resumed a short time later.

"I think they have seen us evacuating the refugees," said Jerry Hulme of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. "They believe the targets are now fair targets."

The United Nations said it expected an upsurge of fighting in the Gorazde pocket east of Sarajevo after learning that the local hospital had been instructed to make space available in its wards.

"We believe there is likely to be an increase in military activity during the course of the next few days," Lt. Col. Spicer said.

Bosnian Serb forces almost overran the U.N.-protected safe haven of Gorazde town this year but were forced to halt their offensive under threat of NATO air strikes.

The town is surrounded by Serb infantry forces occupying a 20-kilometres radius heavy-weapons-exclusion zone monitored by the United Nations.

NATO has become concerned that long gaps between violations of exclusion zones in Bosnia and the go-ahead to conduct air strikes are endangering its pilots.

government army on Mount Igman in the demilitarised zone around the capital despite attempts to dislodge them.

The Bosnian Serb army has given the United Nations until Oct. 20 to clear the slopes and destroy Muslim fortifications before intervening in Bosnia, including cutting down on response time.

The officials, lead by NATO Assistant Secretary-General Anthony Craigie, are to meet Dr. Ghali Monday.

"They will encourage the United Nations to approve a new strategy," the source said.

NATO, worried about its credibility, wants to avoid having to negotiate with the U.N. each time there is a violation in Bosnia's exclusion zones, such as around Sarajevo.

It also wants to be allowed to prepare a wider range of targets.

This is necessary, NATO sources say, to ensure that there will be retaliation even if a specific target is covered by cloud or otherwise unavailable.

Regarding the safety of its pilots, NATO is particularly keen to do away with long warning periods between a violation and an air strike.

No NATO pilots have been killed in action over former Yugoslavia, but one British plane was shot down earlier in the year. Its pilot parachuted on Sept. 22.

U.N. peacekeepers admitted there were still 500 troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian

alliance sources said Friday. "We have been lucky up until now that no pilots have been killed," one source said.

The comment came as a high-level group of NATO officials was headed to New York to persuade United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to adopt a tougher air strike policy in Bosnia, including cutting down on response time.

NATO sources say they believe the U.N., as well as worrying about the safety of its blue helmet troops in Bosnia, also fears it will lose control of the military option.

The sources said, however, that NATO simply wants to make its air strike policy more efficient and has no intention of taking over control from the U.N.

"NATO has always said it will use the dual key," said another source.

"Dual key" is NATO jargon for the current system under which U.N. commanders call in a NATO air strike.

U.N. officials said earlier this week that a possible compromise between NATO desires and U.N. concerns could include a more rapid response when offences occurred and more damage to the offending unit and weapons system.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic firmly rejected Friday a proposal by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to authorise Bosnian Serbs to form a confederation with Serbia.

In a letter addressed to France's partners in the five-nation contact group, Mr. Izetbegovic said that the "parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina accepted the international peace plan because the integrity of the country was guaranteed and because it got assurances that would be asked of it."



A Bosnian Muslim prays by her son's grave at the Kovaci military cemetery in the capital Sarajevo. Her son, Nuhic Samir, was killed in fighting in 1992 (AFP photo)

## Rebels attack Chechen capital

GROZNY (AFP) — The Russian-backed opposition to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev Saturday launched helicopter attacks on the capital of the Caucasian breakaway republic as its forces gathered on the city outskirts, according to an AFP correspondent.

Helicopters fired four rockets at the city centre, hitting the 16th floor of a building. Several people were reported hurt in fire.

Meanwhile, seven tanks loyal to Mr. Dudayev had surrounded the presidential palace.

Earlier in the day opposition Provisional Council had said in a statement its forces had carried out helicopter strikes against government

military posts in suburban Grozny Saturday morning.

The opposition forces, under the command of rebel leader Umar Avtukhanov, said Mr. Dudayev's troops had been forced to retreat from the suburbs and were headed toward central Grozny.

Chechen rebel forces have been trying to overthrow Mr. Dudayev's government since the beginning of September.

ITAR-TASS had earlier reported that helicopter strikes had been launched in two areas, in Urus-Martan, south of Grozny, and in Tolstoy-Yurt in the north.

In an interview published by the Moscow newspaper Izvestia Saturday, Mr. Avtukhanov, where between four and 10 people were killed.

Khanov, who has been supported by Moscow since August, said that "the principal problem was not to enter Grozny — we can do that in a few hours — but to organise an operation that does not cause a large number of victims."

Chechnya, a small Muslim republic rich in petroleum, became independent from Moscow three years ago after Mr. Dudayev unilaterally proclaimed its independence.

The last confrontation between rebels and Chechen governmental forces was Thursday in the Urus-Martan region, the first of opposition military chief Beslan Gantemirov, where between six and eight per cent, above the five per cent minimum required to enter German legislatures.

"Scharping is relaxing at home today," an SPD spokesman told reporters about the party leader, who lives in the town of Lahnstein on the Rhine River.

Only the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), nervous about their chances of returning

## German campaigners take a break before polls

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and challenger Rudolf Scharping took a break from campaigning Saturday, the last day before campaigning with an advertisement in national newspapers.

The advertisement, placed by FDP supporters who said they were not party members, argued "against fears among some would-be FDP voters that the small party would crash out of the parliament in Bonn, as it has in six local elections and a European vote in the past year."

"Your vote for the FDP is not wasted," the text read, noting that recent opinion polls put support for the liberals at between six and eight per cent, above the five per cent minimum required to enter German legislatures.

The latest opinion survey, from the Allenbach Institute, gave Mr. Kohl's coalition 48.5 per cent of the vote against 47.5 per cent for the combined opposition of the SPD, Greens and reformed

communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

Newspaper commentators said the close contest between Mr. Kohl's centrist coalition and the leftist opposition was no surprise because the major parties, the CDU and SPD, were increasingly merging in the political center.

"The choice becomes more of an ordeal because the two big mass parties are so similar in their goals and views and have to be that way: In large sections of society, they are courting the same voters," the Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung said.

Although Mr. Kohl's CDU is projected by opinion polls to get the highest number of seats in the new parliament, the complexities of German coalition politics mean it is by no means clear what kind of government will emerge.

A slight increase in the opposition vote could mean the PDS — successors to East

Germany's hardline rulers — would in effect block a fourth term for Mr. Kohl's coalition.

Although the PDS has little or no chance of reaching the minimum five per cent needed to get into parliament, it would get some 50 deputies in courtesy of a loophole if it wins three constituencies outright, even by only a single vote.

If the Communists do block a CDU-FDP majority, the SPD has pledged not to try to form a government which relies on PDS support — leaving a grand CDU-SPD coalition led by Mr. Kohl as the most likely alternative.

Germany's 60 million eligible voters can cast their ballots from 0700 GMT Sunday. The first exit polls will be broadcast on television immediately after voting stops at 1700 GMT. Usually reliable computer projections based on partial results will follow about half an hour later.

## No U.S.-N. Korea nuke accord after top envoys resume talks

GENEVA (AFP) — U.S.

and North Korean negotiators failed to reach an accord Saturday, the top U.S. envoy said, after two hours of talks billed as putting the final touches to an agreement eliminating Pyongyang's capacity to acquire nuclear weapons.

Neither of the two delegations made a statement when the talks resumed at noon (1100 GMT), but that fact that it involved the top envoys — U.S. Ambassador-at-large Robert Galucci and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju — was seen as indicating some progress had been made.

But after the talks Mr. Galucci told reporters an accord had still not been reached, although his team said the delegations' respective heads could meet again during the afternoon.

Earlier, expectations that

an agreement was imminent were raised after South Korean Vice Premier Lee Hong-Koo told parliament in Seoul Friday that the bilateral deal would probably be completed before the end of the weekend.

A senior State Department official had also late Friday confirmed in Washington an agreement was in sight.

"We believe that we are on the edge of a possibly major agreement," said Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs. But short afterwards a State Department spokeswoman, Christine Shelley, tried to temper that optimism by saying Mr. Lord had merely reacted to Mr. Lee's comments.

Other department officials reported Mr. Galucci was "astounded" to hear that Mr. Lord had predicted that an agreement was in sight after

nearly three weeks of talks.

In Geneva, U.S. officials told reporters Friday night that Mr. Galucci and the north Korean vice-foreign minister, who had left their experts wrangling with complex issues for the last four days, would only meet once that work would be completed.

Both delegations had spent part of Saturday morning telephoning each other to decide where and at which level to meet.

Washington has demanded North Korea halt its current nuclear programme — suspended of harbouring an arms facility — and adopt an alternative programme using lower-level technology.

mark talks

The first round was held in the northern Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE runs a de facto state called Eelam and have kept security forces and the government writ at bay.

The euphoria, however, was not shared by rival Tamil politicians who say they are sceptical about the peace initiative and the willingness on both sides of the ethnic divide to make concessions.

Delegates analysts believe that previous peace bids to end the LTTE guerrilla war, which has cost 30,000 lives since 1972, failed because the government had no fallback position.

"It was a very satisfactory discussion that has paved the way for future talks and a cessation of hostilities," said the leader of the government team, Kusumisri Balapatabendi, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese community.

He said he had carried a message from Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga to LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran that the priority of her new government was to reduce the hardships on minority Tamils and bring about an early ceasefire.

"It was warmly reciprocated," said Mr. Balapatabendi.

He said the armed groups, blamed for past

father's mantle. He has not appeared in public since the late "great leader."

Kim Il-Sung designated his pudgy, bespectacled son back in the 1970s as heir-apparent to his father, President Kim Il-Sung, who died in July, news reports said Saturday.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, quoting a diplomatic source in Seoul, said the party Central Committee would give its stamp of approval a day or two after Mr. Kim, 52, attends a mass rally Sunday marking the end

of 100 days of mourning for

the late "great leader."

Kim Il-Sung designated his son back in the 1970s as heir-apparent to his father, President Kim Il-Sung, who died in July, news reports said Saturday.

Yonhap's source said he was now due to reappear at Sunday's mass rally.

"We have gathered information that Kim Jong-Il will attend a rally on the 16th to mark his father's 100-day mourning," the source said.

Only North Korea will call a Communist Party Central Committee meeting either on the 17th or 18th to elect Kim Jong-Il as party chief.

The source said his election to the state presidency, the other key leadership post, would come later.

"North Korea needs to hold a meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly (rubberstamp parliament) to elect a president, and it hasn't done that yet," the source said. "We think it will be done later on."

Kim Jong-Il will be succeeded by his son, Kim Jong-Il, who is the third son of Kim Il-Sung.

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## Gulf between East, West

**RUSSIA'S DIPLOMATIC** initiative to defuse the recent Gulf crisis is important on two counts. First, the trip by the foreign minister of Russia, Andre Kozyrev, to Baghdad in the wake of the escalation of tension in the area marks what could be a fresh beginning for Russian diplomacy in the Middle East after a long hiatus brought about by the demise of the communist order in the former Soviet Union. Second, because the Kozyrev mission succeeded in winning a major Iraqi concession in the form of according recognition to Kuwait in return for a clear commitment from the international community to lifting the sanctions still imposed on Iraq.

But the repercussions of the Russian-brokered deal in Baghdad has already caused confusion among the Western allies who were caught off guard by the sudden Russian "breakthrough" in Baghdad. The once solid Western alliance now appears to be cracking under the weight of Russian and French opposition to overreaction to the recent massing of Iraqi soldiers near the Kuwaiti border. The split between the allied countries on how to deal with Iraq in the wake of recent events took a negative turn when the French defence minister, Francois Leotard, alluded to domestic U.S. considerations as the basis for Washington's decision to overreact to the Iraqi military move.

That the permanent members of the Security Council no longer see eye to eye on Iraq is a foregone conclusion. The division of opinion between London and Washington on the one hand and Paris, Moscow and Beijing on the other has been in the making for sometime now with both Russia and France poised to strike lucrative business deals with Iraq once it is rehabilitated and the embargo on its oil exports is lifted. As recognition of Kuwait by Iraq constitutes a major step towards securing stability in the Gulf, we strongly believe that Iraq's offer must be taken up seriously and expeditiously. This Iraqi offer presents the most viable opportunity for a permanent resolution of the tension between the two Arab countries. It is an opportunity that should not be missed.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i's daily Saturday severely criticised the Nobel Prize committee for granting the Israeli Premier and Foreign Minister two thirds of the 1994 peace prize, saying that the two Israeli leaders are at the head of a state bent on aggression. These two men are still holding firmly on to the traditional Zionist policy expansion and racial discrimination and the continue to ignore bids for releasing thousands of Arab detainees from Israeli jails, the writer said. The writer said that the Nobel prize was given at a time when the Israelis are still occupying lands belonging to four Arab states, and despite their total disregard to calls for giving back the Palestinian people their legitimate rights in their own homeland. The writer said he had wanted to see the implementation of the Oslo deal, which constituted the basis for the prize because the Israelis are not implementing that deal, said the writer.

AL DUSTOUR daily discussed Iraq's acceptance of a Russian peace plan primarily providing for Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait's borders and the emirate's sovereignty, describing the move as a step in the right direction. The Russians have now achieved a very positive development which calls for deep satisfaction as it could mark the end of the new Gulf crisis and serve as a harbinger for ending the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, said the paper. Saying that Iraq has now for the first time recognised the United Nations, the paper said for such a move Iraq deserves to be rewarded with lifting of the U.N. sanctions. Indeed, the recognition of Kuwait and its borders leaves no ground for perpetuating the sanctions and should pave the ground for Kuwait to reciprocate the Iraqi move by extending a helping hand to the Iraqi people, said the daily. It called on Kuwait's rulers to seize this opportunity and contribute towards a lasting stability and security in the Gulf region.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

### Much to lose in Casablanca conference

THE INTERNATIONAL economic development conference scheduled to take place in Casablanca, Morocco, is drawing a lot of publicity and expectations. The conference is being projected as an historic turning point in the economic development and prosperity of the Middle East, something similar to the Marshall Plan, which helped Western Europe to recover and prosper after the end of World War II. It is also being presented as the platform to announce the birth of the so-called Middle East market, a code name for merging Israel with the Middle East or, if you will, annexing the Middle East to Israel.

It is of course too risky to prejudge the conference or speculate about its outcome. Fifty states and 800 multinational corporations were invited to attend it, over and above the relevant international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is obviously an unprecedented large-scale international demonstration on since Britain woods, which no country in the Middle East can afford to ignore.

This writer is a supporter of the current peace process. Therefore, the reservations expressed here do not stem from political or ideological considerations. They are the result of an objective reading and an attempt to evaluate the expected outcome from a Jordanian national interest viewpoint.

In the first place, the conference is expected to emphasize the role of the private sector and private companies, not in the Middle East countries only but in the donors side as well in the economic development process. This may mean that the donor states are trying to avoid making commitments of direct state to state aid. Private companies are after profits. They calculate the profitability of any project with utmost accuracy. They don't respond to well

written speeches which will be delivered in the conference by political stars who don't even claim to be objective or impartial. Corporations don't respond to the so-called encouragement of their governments. Conference or no conference, if investments in the Middle East became feasible, the multi-national corporation will invest. What counts are the rate of expected return and the degree of risk involved. The last thing that the bosses of such corporations worry about is to support and reinforce peace in the Middle East. Those bosses will use the conference to meet each other in Casablanca and make deals among themselves. They will not go to Casablanca to make decisions to invest or finance projects in Jordan, Syria, or Palestine in order for peace to develop strong roots.

On the other hand, the establishment of the Middle East Bank for Development may be a sure indication that Jordan will not receive the hoped for grants and assistance to finance development. The bank will definitely be run on commercial basis. It will not deal in grants or, for that matter, reduced interest rates. The bank's shareholders may even expect high dividends at the expense of the borrowers.

If development in Jordan is to be funded through the Development Bank of the Middle East, the end result will be development by debt. The results is tested and well known: An artificial and temporary prosperity when we start spending the money on projects, followed by a crisis and retreat when the instalments start to fall due.

Finally, Israel must declare its firm readiness to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Golan Heights and southern Lebanon before its leaders may be allowed to shine in the Middle East conference side by side with Arab leaders.

### Berber question returns to haunt troubled Algeria

By Francis Ghilès

THE RECENT kidnapping in Algeria of the Berber singer Lououn Matouh has again raised the issue that has haunted modern Algeria — the Berber question, or, to be more precise, the Kabyle question.

Mr. Matouh is a militant of the Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) which calls for Berber to be treated as a "national" language in Algeria, on a par with Arabic, and for it to be taught in all schools.

As provocative as he is popular, Mr. Matouh recently claimed he was "neither an Arab nor a Muslim" and argued that the Kabyle Berber heartland, a mountainous region 150-km east of Algiers, should be granted autonomous political status.

His latest record, *Kenza*, is dedicated to the daughter of Tahar Djaout, a Kabyle writer and polemicist who was murdered by supporters of radical Islam in June last year. Mr. Matouh is suspected of being held by a similar group. The singer's publicly expressed love of whisky has turned him into what Tahar Djaout was until his death, the man religious zealots love to hate.

Recently more than 100,000 people took part in a peaceful demonstration in the Berber capital of Tizi Ouzou marked by calls and threats for the safe return of Mr. Matouh.

The original inhabitants of North Africa were Berber but the process of Arabisation, the adoption of Arabic

language and culture, has, over 13 centuries, left only a third of the Maghreb's 60m people with Berber as their mother tongue. Between 20 and 25 per cent of Algeria's 26m people speak Berber, two-thirds of them coming from Kabylia.

The Kabyles played a key role in Algeria's modern history, one quite out of proportion to their numbers.

Between the two world wars, emigrants from Kabylia formed the vast majority of Muslim Algerian labourers in France where they founded the first Algerian nationalist movement, L'Etoile Nord Africaine.

As trade unionists, and with the help of French Communist Party members, they became acquainted with modern ideologies and methods of resistance. The Etoile and its post-war successor, the Party Populaire Algérien, provided the fount of modern Algerian politics. The idea of independence for what had been for a century three French departments came from their ranks.

During the eight bloody years of the war of independence which started in 1954, the two Berber mountainous heartlands Kabylia and the Aurès mountains to the south, witnessed some of the worst fighting between French troops and the armed supporters of the Front de Libération National (FLN).

The leading ideologue of the FLN, Abane Ramdane, a Kabyle, was murdered by some of his peers in Morocco in 1959, an act which symbolised the events which were

to take place at independence in 1962 when those FLN leaders who had spent most of the war years in Morocco and Tunisia usurped power from those who had fought in the bush. This "betrayal", as it is now seen by many, opened a wound which has yet to be healed.

Despite the fact that Krim Belkacem, who led the talks at which France agreed to Algerian independence, was a Kabyle, the new rulers of Algeria, President Ahmad Ben Bella and — after he was ousted by a military coup in 1983 — Colonel Houari Boumedienne, clamped down on the freedoms their countrymen had paid such a heavy price for.

All expression of Berber culture were forbidden and fast Arabisation imposed.

The MCB was born after riots in Tizi Ouzou in 1980 forced the new president, Colonel Chadli Bendjedid, to grant a greater measure of freedom. Singers such as Mr. Matouh, who had adapted old Kabyle songs to a more modern musical form, had already become popular. Music became a key vehicle for the expression of a culture and language whose alphabet is the old Phoenician script but has not been commonly written for centuries.

Like most of their countrymen, the Kabyles are not of one mind. The lines that fracture Algerian society run through every social group and region. After riots in 1988 broke the power of the FLN, two parties boasting a distinct "Kabyle" identity

The Financial Times.

emerged. The Rassemblement pour la Culture et la Démocratie (RCD) traced its roots to the MCB while the Front des Forces Socialistes (FFS) rose from the clandestinity forced on it since its foundation in 1963.

In the first round of the elections in December 1991, the FFS did much better than the RCD. The two leaders reacted very differently to the annulment of the election in January 1992 and the de facto military coup that accompanied it. Despite being deeply opposed to the ideology of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which looked set to win the election, the FFS leader Hocine Aït Ahmed opposed the suspension and argued that democracy could only be won on the ground.

The RCD leader, Said Sadi, whose links with certain military commanders was an open secret, backed the coup. On learning of the 47.3 per cent share of the vote the FIS had picked up in the first round, against the RCD's meagre 2.9 per cent, he confessed to not understanding the country he lived in. For while he was a firm advocate of "eradicating" fundamentalism.

Be they "Arab" or "Berber", most Algerians feel insulted by Kabyle Berbers claiming they are "not Muslim."

They are also fearful

that such statements are conducive to confrontation rather than dialogue, a form of politics desperately lacking in Algeria.

The Financial Times.

### Arms and the middle men

Anthony Sampson

WAS the British arms deal with the Saudis in 1984-85 "properly negotiated", as Lady Thatcher insisted on Monday? Certainly it was in the tradition of proper negotiation in Saudi Arabia, where commissions have been an essential part of the process. Every big deal is seen as an opportunity to enrich members of the royal family and to spread favours to friends in the courts; and the total price of any project is increased to allow for commissions.

For the Saudis there was always the danger implicit in such arrangements that the commissions determined the orders. Much of the weaponry in the vast arsenals built up in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was scarcely relevant to their defence needs — as was embarrassingly evident in the Gulf war, when they had to rely on Western armories.

The Al Yamamah arms deals in 1985 and 1987 raised the stakes much higher. The sheer size of the first deal, worth around \$20 billion, was unprecedented; the claimants were becoming greedier, since Saudi revenues were diminishing as the oil price fell; and the commissions were running out of control.

There were several Saudi rivals for the spoils. A key figure was Prince Bandar, the ambassador to Washington and son of the Duke of Chandos, who built a palace at Edgware on the proceeds.

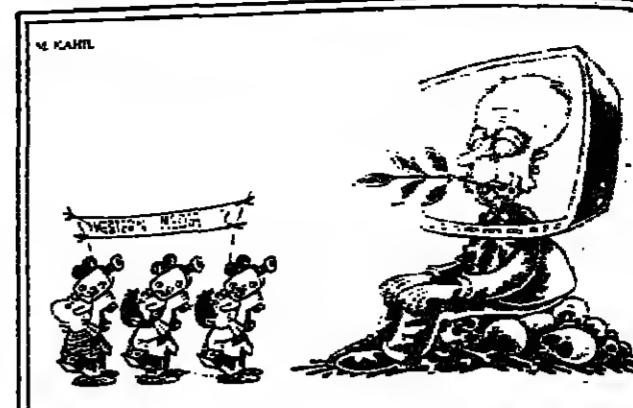
The traditional Saudi system escalated in the 1960s and 1970s, when huge arms

and oil deals enabled many princes to become very rich, while junior players insisted on having their cut. Western companies had to accept this, and their governments tacitly condoned it, although by the late 1970s the Callaghan government was worried about commissions running out of control.

For the Saudis there was always the danger implicit in such arrangements that the commissions determined the orders. Much of the weaponry in the vast arsenals built up in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was scarcely relevant to their defence needs — as was embarrassingly evident in the Gulf war, when they had to rely on Western armories.

The Al Yamamah arms deals in 1985 and 1987 raised the stakes much higher. The sheer size of the first deal, worth around \$20 billion, was unprecedented; the claimants were becoming greedier, since Saudi revenues were diminishing as the oil price fell; and the commissions were running out of control.

With the huge sums at stake, it would be surprising if some money did not find its way to the British side. It was part of normal Arab



### The irony of Nobel prize

By Michael Jansen

named Ben Dunkelman, who had been ordered to evacuate the Palestinian population of Nazareth. Although Mr. Dunkelman was quickly transferred from Nazareth, his defiance of the evacuation order forced the Israeli general staff to think again and the inhabitants of Nazareth were not forced to take to the roads as did those of Lydda and Ramleh.

During the first period as prime minister after the 1973 war, Mr. Rabin permitted Gush Emunim settlers to establish their first colony near Nablus. Their declared objective being to squat illegally on Palestinian land and in Palestinian houses.

Then as defence minister in 1985, he supervised the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, keeping the "security zone" which had led to constant strife in the south of that country and in 1987, at the outbreak of the intifada. Mr. Rabin urged his soldiers to break the bones of Palestinian demonstrators.

Once again prime minister in 1992, Mr. Rabin ordered the deportation of the 415 alleged Hamas militants to a snowy hillside in Lebanon. There they remained for more than a year, from snow to sweltering summer to snow.

Since the signing of the Oslo accord on Sept. 13 last year, Mr. Rabin has done his best to stall the implementation of the deal and to change the terms of the agreement he signed while focusing Israeli efforts on strengthening and expanding Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza in order to ensure Israel's dominance in these areas of Palestinian autonomy.

By contrast, Yasser Arafat has done his level best, to the extent of destroying the credibility of the Oslo accord and undermining his position, to conciliate the Israelis while achieving minimal implementation of the provisions of the accord.

If one were to choose between the two men for the award it should be Mr. Arafat, accused of being a "terrorist" by Klaré Kristiansen, a member of the Nobel committee who has resigned.



disturbing story should have produced a major investigation into the ministry's safeguards.

In negotiating with Saudis, with their quite different attitude to payments, it is hard to ensure that deals are clean on the Western side even if corruption on the other. The vast commissions of the 1980s were always likely to overflow into the West. So what does it mean to be "properly negotiated"? To the Saudis it means taking due note of the claims of the royal family, and traditional generosity towards friends. But to Westerners, that will mean two-way corruption — unless the whole negotiation is subjected to far more rigorous scrutiny than we have yet seen evidence of.

Anthony Sampson is the author of *The Arms Bazaar (Coronet)*. The article is reprinted from *The Times*.

## Long way to go in reforming educational system

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some progress has been made in addressing profound weaknesses in Jordan's public school system since the 1989 launch of the 10-year Educational Reform Programme (ERP), but numerous woes still remain to be tackled, according to some experts.

"We are moving in the right direction with the passage of time," said one university professor of education who declined to be named. But, she admitted, "things are not always moving smoothly."

Media claims of a crisis state in many facets of the public system, which educates 79 per cent of Jordan's primary and secondary students, have echoed for some time. Numerous critics have decried, among other things, shoddy school facilities, incompetent and poorly-paid teachers, and failing morale among both teachers and students alike.

The criticism has come in spite of the fact that Jordan's public school system is, according to one expert, one of the better ones in the Third World in terms of guaranteeing a basic education to the vast majority of its younger citizens.

"Experts internationally believe public education in Jordan is well ahead of the majority of other Third World countries in overall terms," said Victor Billeh of the government's National Centre for Education Research and Development (NCERD).

The Kingdom's entire school system underwent a mammoth quantitative expansion between 1970 and 1990. Existing schools more than doubled, from 1,508 to 3,254. Teachers more than quadrupled, from 11,700 to 43,780 and Jordan's pre-college student population exploded from 380,000 to 1.03 million.

Over two thirds of all Jordanians could neither read or write in 1961, but by 1993 that ratio was down to 15 per cent.

Jordan's public school sector was where the greater portion of the overall expansion took place, and thus it can boast impressive progress on "the quantitative level," Dr. Billeh said. "However, there was the general perception that quality had not kept pace with that expansion, and has actually dropped in some areas."

This perception was a major factor behind the drawing up of the ERP, he said. It was envisaged as a comprehensive overhaul of public schools along seven major tracks, including reforming textbooks and curriculum, upgrading teacher's qualifications, and improving educational facilities.

The plan further called for the participation of all Jordanian agencies, including ministries, university faculties of education, and the Vocational Training Corporation.

Outside donors for the start-up and foundation phase of the programme, which cost \$250 million according to Dr. Billeh, included the World Bank, Japan, USAID, and Britain. A second phase of the ERP should begin in June 1995 and is expected to cost around \$180 million, he said.

The organisation, which Dr. Billeh heads, was set up in 1990 as an official watchdog to monitor and evaluate the progress of the reforms. Subsequently, initial studies of public schools, which were done as a prelude to full implementation of the ERP, showed fault-lines in several major areas, according to Dr. Billeh.

Textbooks were antiquated, with no changes or updating since the 1970s. Only 30 per cent of the teachers held a four-year college degree, and the majority of the others were poorly trained.

The rapid setting up of new public schools during the earlier expansions left behind many facilities of marginal quality, and many buildings could not adequately hold the large numbers of students enrolled in them. Such problems were especially marked at roughly a quarter of the school buildings, which were rented by the government from other owners after construction and use with other purposes in mind, Dr. Billeh said.

Five years into the ERP, some substantial tangible changes have already been accomplished, according to both Dr. Billeh and the education professor.

Perhaps the most substantial step is in the complete overhaul and rewriting of all textbooks now used in grades 1-10, with grades 11 and 12 to follow in the next two years.

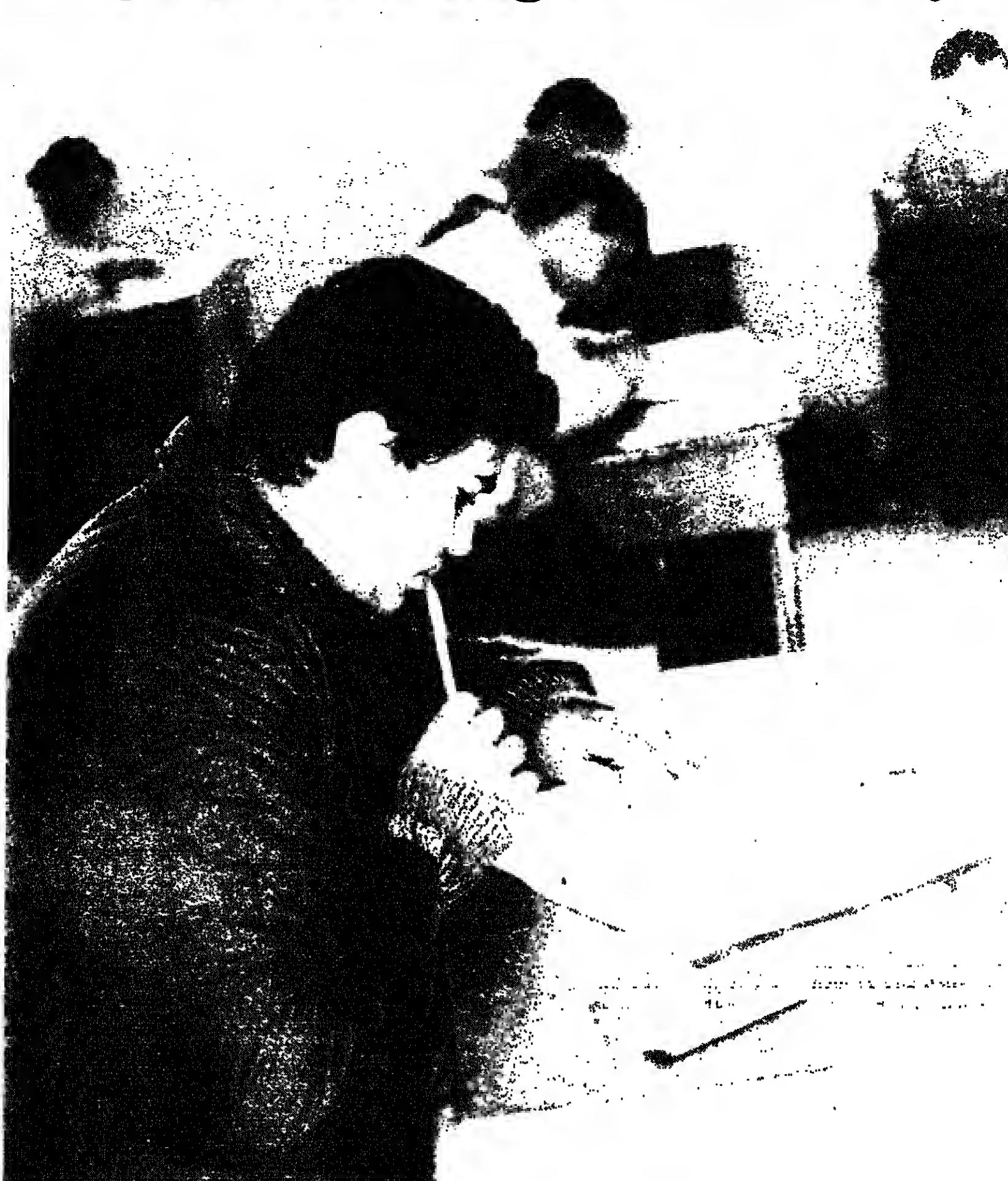
"The new books are much better than the old books in every way," said the education professor. "Style, graphics, and quality of content, and especially the way they approach the students and encourage them to think in a critical manner."

Also being phased out is the old two-year community college teaching certificate, which most public school educators were receiving as their passport to employment. Many experts had considered this certificate to be grossly inadequate. The college professor, for one, commented that "all too many" of the teachers she had seen who were holding the certificate "are extremely weak."

Now, however, new employees must possess a bachelor's degree, and those already working with the certificate must upgrade themselves to bachelor's degrees through additional training.

A Practical Education Programme (PEP) initiated at Jordan University has retooled the university's bachelor's degree in education to put more emphasis on practical and technical classroom skills.

"The government is also



THE BIG TEST: Jordanian students sit for the tawjih examination (file photo)

spending a very large amount of effort and money on upgrading vocational training programmes," said the college professor.

"With today's job conditions, people now realise that having a trained job without a college degree is better than having the degree and finding no work."

Public sector vocational training was now "extremely strong," she said.

However, she felt the ERP had ignored the most crucial problem in public schools, what she maintained was a state of disaster in educating students in the first three primary grades due to vastly over-

crowded classes.

"We have many classes where 50, 60 or more students in this age category are sitting in one classroom," she said. "How can you do this at such a critical age?"

The alarming results, she maintained, were that "out of 50 children, only two, perhaps can read," in these grades.

She held that the early-age development of such grade learning deficiencies was the main factor behind high failure and dropout rates in the 4th through 10th grades.

A 1989 survey by the NCERD showed failures

and dropouts ranging between 10 to 20 per cent of students in those grades.

"The reforms must begin to focus on this critical area," she said. "Developing reading skills at the very young ages is the key to the whole learning process."

Both she and another education professor felt that the reforms had also lagged behind in another critical area by not changing the tawjih exam system. The cumulative average of students who sat for the 1993-94 tawjih exams was 48.8 per cent, while the prescribed pass/fail margin for the exam is 50 per cent.

The second professor, who also preferred anonymity, dismissed the credibility of the exams altogether, saying that "most of the material used in the tawjih is completely invalid."

Only those wishing to attend college would need to take the exam, and others would be granted a certificate as proof of graduation.

The exemption from the tawjih would also include those wishing to work in the civil service, he added.

However, said the woman professor, a major fault in the tawjih system remained in the fact that during 12 years of primary and secondary education, no assessments are made of students' aptitudes and progress except the tawjih.

"It should not be a one-shot, win or lose deal," she said. "Universities must de-

velop other assessment tools besides the tawjih, and the public schools must develop ways to measure students' achievements throughout their 12-year education, not just through one exam given in the final grade."

Her colleague said he was "sceptical that any major changes will be made in the tawjih."

"It's been an established and institutionalised system for many years," he commented.

Of the problems cited by Dr. Billeh and the two professors, perhaps the most difficult situation to grapple with is the relatively low social regard held for public school teachers.

"Most of the people who train to be teachers are students with low tawjih scores, who thus could not pursue a college degree in another field and feel forced into what they are doing," said Dr. Billeh.

"About 80 per cent of the students at our teaching college are like this," said the male professor. "They are enquiring to see how they can transfer to another faculty almost as soon as they come to us." The overall result of this and other factors, he said, is that "teaching is not recognised as a valid and worthwhile profession."

"And since teachers are only human beings," he added, "you cannot expect them to be faithfully committed when they compare themselves to any falafel shop worker and find no difference in terms of social esteem."

He also felt that the ERP suffered serious organisational weaknesses due to a general lack of communication between the many institutions involved in the plan. "Directors and professors in the educational field here do not keep in touch with each other," he said. "There is very little coordination at the practical levels — no exchange visits, information networks or conferences."

"As a result, we have no idea what other universities are doing in the field, what the Ministry of Education is doing, what NCERD is doing, or what is actually happening in the schools. Such a comprehensive national plan needs close contacts and communication. And until now, from what I have seen, there have been none."

The female professor was more optimistic about future prospects for the ERP.

"I think that hope is really there, and in the next five years to one decade, we should see real fruits," she said.

Both she and Dr. Billeh remarked that under the constraints involved, especially budgetary ones, a great deal of patience was needed.

"This is the first attempt at such extensive reform in the system, and overhauling any education system nationwide is a complicated process," said Dr. Billeh. "We cannot expect things to change in the wink of an eye."

## Returning Haitian president: Saviour or scoundrel?

By George Gedda  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To his supporters, Jean-Bertrand Aristide is a man driven by the dream of a more just society, a fighter who cares only for his people, the first leader in his nation's history with an authentic popular following.

To his opponents, he is a mentally unstable demagogue with a penchant for mob rule, anti-American preachers and an almost cavalier disregard for constitutional norms.

These are the conflicting portraits of Haiti's enigmatic president, as he returns home after three years of exile in Washington.

Almost since the day he took office, U.S. President Bill Clinton has been dogged by the question of just how far he should go in support of this son of Haiti's south coast, about whom there are so many doubts, both personal and political. At enormous political risk, Mr. Clinton decided to send 20,000 troops to Haiti to secure his re-in-

statement.

Mr. Aristide, 41, does not seem to have identified with his surroundings here, and perhaps it was too much to expect that a product of the hemisphere's poorest and most misruled country could assimilate easily into the local political culture.

He reflects the wariness of a man who has tried to do something no Haitian has ever done: tame the violent minority that has ruthlessly oppressed the Haitian majority for decades. He is the first even to have come close.

Despite these credentials, Mr. Aristide has been a source of unending frustration for official Washington almost since his arrival here in the fall of 1991, not long after he was deposed in a military coup.

Among other irritants to U.S. officials, he has said the United States was behind the coup that ousted him. He has never been firmly convinced that the administration wanted him back in power. Officials sometimes characterise him as "paranoid." Indeed, a

CIA profile that came to light last year also raised questions about his mental state.

As officials see it, Mr. Aristide had a totally unrealistic view of Washington's ability to force the military leaders in Port-au-Prince from office. His assumption that it could be done with a mere phone call to military headquarters was ridiculed by U.S. officials. He is seen here as long on charisma but short on political skills.

Critics have relentlessly called attention to his reliance on rule by the mob to get his way, as in his advocacy of "necklacing" — placing a gas-soaked tire on the shoulders of an enemy and setting it afire.

His opponents also have pointed to his record of anti-Americanism. Americans, he said in 1990, "want to hold our guts always in their hands. Thus, we will be economically, politically and culturally dependent. For our part, we reject this."

The many disagreements he has had with U.S. offi-

cials over the past three years tend to obscure the reverence with which he seems to be held by most of his countrymen. He has been the object of displays of adulation rarely seen anywhere.

His backers see him as a true intellect, citing his Ph.D. in theology and his ability to converse in eight languages besides religious songs and plays five musical instruments.

In Haiti, he is perceived by some to have divine qualities, partly based on his frequent escapes from brushes with death. He first gained notice from his countrymen when as a 29-year-old firebrand priest in 1982, he called on his parishioners to rise up against the Duvalier dictatorship. A fearful government convinced the church hierarchy to send him abroad.

In 1988, three years after his return, the church was alarmed again by Mr. Aristide's crusade against the establishment and again ordered him into exile. This time tens of thousands of supporters mobbed the

streets, blocking his exit. He remained in Haiti but the church soon thereafter defrocked him, citing his encouragement of violence and exaltation of class struggle.

His links to the Salesian order of Roman Catholicism, which dated back to his enrollment in a Salesian school at age 6, were broken. Coupled with his mother, a devout believer in education, the church was easily the most influential component of his formative years.

There were other influences as well later on. His studies in Israel, Canada and Greece made him aware of how underdeveloped Haiti was both politically and economically. Despite his large popular following, Mr. Aristide was wary about seeking the presidency in 1990, entering the race just eight weeks before the December elections. He won in a landslide, capturing two of every three votes. In February he was sworn in as president, his first elective post. He lasted seven months. His enemies in the military

and their allies in the small, wealthy elite deposed him. During his brief tenure, many hopeful Haitians living abroad returned home and the number of those trying to flee by boat was relatively small. International aid to Mr. Aristide's government was generous. But rights abuses did occur. The U.S. State Department's human rights report for 1991 said the Aristide government "proved unwilling or unable to restrain popular justice through mob violence."

An example was the use of such violence to prevent the Haitian parliament from censoring Mr. Aristide's prime minister on corruption charges in July 1991. But the rights situation in those days compares favourably with what has happened since September 1991 under the coup regime.

Now, with constitutional

rule about to be restored, U.S. officials can only hope that, following their risky gamble on Mr. Aristide's behalf, he can help guide

Haiti towards a better day.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN?: President Jean-Bertrand Aristide

## U.S. inflation under control as growth continues apace

WASHINGTON (AFP) — There was good news of the U.S. economic front Friday, with new figures showing that inflation was under control even as growth continues — reducing chances that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates.

Figures released Friday showed that consumer prices rose 0.2 per cent in September, after news Thursday of a drop of 0.5 per cent in wholesale prices for the same month.

The combination pleased the bond market, the most sensitive inflation barometer.

Interest rates on the Treasury Department's benchmark 30-year bonds fell from 7.85 per cent late Thursday to 7.81 per cent Friday shortly after the consumer price figures were released. It later rose slightly to 7.83 per cent.

The Federal Reserve also said Friday that industrial production was unchanged in September while factory capacity utilisation fell 0.2 per cent. The pause in industrial production was the first following 15 months of steady

increases. In another sign of restrained growth, the government also announced Friday that retail sales for September had risen by 0.6 per cent after a 1.1 per cent rise in August.

Together, these figures are about as good as it gets, said Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Co.

"This is the best of all possible worlds," he said. "We are getting continued growth, but not so fast that inflationary pressures are mounting in any meaningful way."

Economist Cynthia Latta of DRI/McGraw Hill said that the Federal Reserve would not necessarily act now to raise short-term interest rates for the sixth time this year to forestall inflation.

These are not numbers that suggest that they need to do anything immediately."

Several economists said they were beginning to back away from earlier beliefs that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would decide to raise key rates at the Nov. 15 meeting

of its policy-making Open Market Committee.

Economist Roben Brusca of the brokerage firm Nikko Securities agreed. "The Fed really doesn't have any grounds to raise interest rates here," he said.

Mr. Brusca argued that the price rises excluding volatile energy and good prices were actually lower in September than they had been one year earlier.

At an annualised rate, retail prices rose just 2.8 per cent since the beginning of the year — just slightly above the 2.7 per cent recorded in 1993.

But most experts continued to predict that the Fed would act to raise rates after the Nov. 15 meeting.

Other economic figures — like the 4.1 per cent rise in gross domestic product for the second quarter — show that the economy may in fact be growing too quickly to avoid inflationary pressures.

Despite five Fed moves to tighten the money supply since February, the U.S. economy could still grow by 3.5 per cent in the third quarter.

fast enough to risk overheating, said economist Russ Sheldon of Mellon Bank.

Several other analysts agreed, saying that the Federal Reserve would likely try to slow economic growth to 2.5 per cent to avert increases in inflation.

The most recent tightening of monetary policy came in mid-August, when the Federal Reserve raised the discount rate and the Fed funds rate by one-half of one per cent each bringing them to four per cent and 4.75 per cent, respectively.

The discount rate is the rate that the Federal Reserve charges banks for overnight loans while the Fed funds rate is what banks charge each other for overnight loans.

The most recent inflation figures should be good news for Democrats: The Fed would likely not raise the rates before the Nov. 8 legislative vote — one of the few in which the party in power risks losing massive numbers of seats despite a true economic upturn.

## Easing ban on Israel to benefit Arab Gulf countries, official says

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The decision by Gulf Arab states to ease a long-standing economic boycott against Israel will help them acquire Western technology and boost their private sector, an official said Saturday.

Several previously blacklisted companies from the United States and other countries are expected to rush to the region and trade will sharply grow between the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and industrial countries, said Hassan Al Numan, chairman of the federation of the Dammam-based GCC chambers of commerce and industry.

The decision to lift the indirect boycott will contribute to increasing joint investment between Gulf states and those companies while foreign firms will seek new agents in the region," Al Numan told the newspaper.

"Trade between the GCC and the United States and Europe will also increase considerably and this will boost the private sector in these countries."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — agreed to lift an indirect boycott against Israel following talks between their foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the United Nations on Sept. 30.

But they have maintained the direct ban would remain

in force until it is removed by a collective decision by the Cairo-based Arab League.

The League has given its members the freedom to lift separately the secondary boycott, which prohibits dealing with companies linked to Israel and bars Israeli publications or ships calling at Israeli ports.

Cairo Arab League figures, Mr. Numan said the boycott had cost Israel around \$40 billion between 1990 and 1992.

He said the loss was because the embargo had deprived Israel of around \$37 billion dollars in investment which could have boosted economic annual growth by three per cent during that

period.

Mr. Numan, also head of the UAE's Sharjah chamber, said Israel's months of 1993 from \$25 billion two years ago.

Its trade balance also suffered from a deficit of 6.3 billion in 1992 and \$7 billion in 1993.

"I think this is the reason why Israel is interested in the economic of the Middle East peace process," Mr. Numan said.

He urged chambers and other economic institutions in the Arab World to prepare studies on their activities and future economic relations with Israel when Arab States totally end sanctions against Israel.

## Japan approves tax reform package

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's cabinet Friday gave final approval for a tax reform package expected to give the country's economy crucial boost as it emerges from more than three years of recession, officials said.

The Economic Planning Agency said the tax reform, if implemented as planned, would push up the growth rate of Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) by an average 0.4 percentage points in real terms each year until March 2000.

The increase in GDP consists of a 0.6 point increase in domestic demand and a 0.2 point decrease in external demand, the agency said.

"The Japanese economy will be more domestic demand-led," Economic Planning Agency Director

General Masahiko Komura said.

The agency said the planned increase in the consumption tax from the current three per cent to five per cent from April 1997 would push up the nation's consumer prices by 1.5 per cent. but it did not give the forecast yearly changes in GDP after the consumption tax hike.

Makoto Kurimoto, an economist at the Japan Research Institute Ltd., said the forecast increase in GDP was "too optimistic."

"Indeed, the reform will be effective until 1996, but the negative effect stemming from the tax hike from 1996 to 1997 is expected to drag on," he said.

The tax hike is estimated to push down fiscal 1997 GDP by up to 0.6 percentage

points year on year, Mr. Kurimoto said.

Satoshi Shimamoto, an economist at the Tokyo branch of MMS International, noted that Japanese incomes have recently fallen.

"How much the tax cuts will expand consumption is still a question," he said.

Besides the income tax cuts and the consumption tax hike, the reform bills also call for the issue of special bonds from April 1995 to June 1996, to finance the time lag between the income tax cuts and the consumption tax hike.

The government aims to complete legislative procedures for the package by the end of this year, officials said.

The package of national tax reform bills were to be sent to parliament later in the day.

The tax cuts would total 5.5 trillion yen (\$55 billion) next year, in line with reductions this year.

## New Zealand records highest growth in OECD

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand has claimed to have the fastest growth rate in the OECD group but also learnt from its central bank that the economy is experiencing greater inflationary pressures than it thought likely a month ago.

Reserve Bank governor Don Brash told a parliamentary committee he had been picking a moderate increase in underlying inflation in forecasts but now pressure had increased.

"Certainly, we seem to be seeing even stronger economic growth than anticipated — and therefore potentially greater risks to underlying inflation," he said.

Statistics New Zealand said gross domestic product in the year to June had grown 6.1 per cent, the highest annual level of economic activity since 1984.

Acting Finance Minister

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime has an element of protection and helpfulness that works well with whatever you decide to do. Invoke your most expansive scope of action and expect big results. Expand in all directions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go where you can imbue yourself with the best tenets and philosophy under which to exist. The evening is fine for your family.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) You keep thinking of money problems but you can figure out a way of handling them and gaining a greater abundance in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 18) Get rid of that mental confusion and think logically to get your affairs in better order. Avoid driving too fast and stay safe.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what is your best mode of procedure in the future. You have several options open to you. Choose the best one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are doubtful about your standing with one who means much to you, so take the initiative and find out. Be charming to all you encounter.

VENUS: (August 22 to September 22) 'Worthy' affairs are on your mind during the day, so go over your position in life carefully and know how to proceed with your efforts.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study into a better philosophy which can help you to become more prosperous and happy in the days ahead towards those under your roof.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Find the right way to change your mind's views and this can become a very happy day for you all. Retire early for tomorrow will be hectic.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Situations arise which will require you think both ideally and practically. Plan next week's activities intelligently.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do something thoughtful for one who has done you many favours and show your gratitude towards this individual. Rest this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that person you like to accompany you at some recreational activity and then you can have a delightful time in their company.

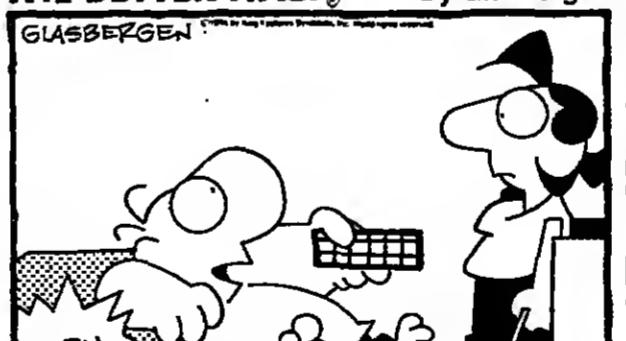
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Home matters are important now, so don't go alog with those who want to take you away from them. Show devotion to those under your roof.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN



"If we both ignore the housework long enough, maybe the cockroaches will get disgusted and clean up for us!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

INGGA

HOLEL

SIGUNE

AERIPT

WHEN THE BIG ONE GOT AWAY IT LEFT THE FISHERMAN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: HEFTY  
Answer: BOOTH DENOTE MODIFY  
How the numbers measured the distance to the finish line — FOOT BY FOOT

## THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1 Fellow  
5 Sister  
10 Tomato offering  
14 Thinner section  
15 Canef  
16 Ad-  
(improves)  
17 April in Hanover  
18 Heads  
20 Incompetent  
23 In one's right mind  
24 Countryman, in  
26 Heads  
30 Shady garden shelter  
31 February  
35 Gumbo  
36 Church law  
38 Ridge  
(Kardon or Derby winner)  
40 Fatty acid  
Signed  
42 Full of fight  
50 Cooperstown's Johnny  
51 "Oh, give me  
52 Took a break  
53 Kind of skirt  
54 Persian Gulf  
55 Land  
61 Long Foster  
62 Late get  
63 Author Farber  
64 Bargain  
65 Designate

DOWN

12 Dredge  
13 Dried  
14 Tarnish  
15 Lizard  
16 Playwright  
17 Henrik  
18 Head  
19 Worst part  
20 Leon portrayer  
21 Gound  
22 Literary conflict  
23 Cupid  
24 Dancer on Pandango  
25 Clan member  
26 Chauffeur's  
27 Lighter  
28 Riding stick  
29 Light-hearted  
30 Full drink  
31 Pardon  
32 Cutting tool  
33 Famous name in right  
34 Balanced  
35 Lighter  
36 Riding stick  
37 Light-hearted  
38 Full drink  
39 Mountain ash  
40 New church  
41 New church  
42 Cutting tool  
43 Famous name in right  
44 Metal  
45 Metal

Puzzle solved:

1 LIQUID AIRCRAFT  
2 TERRIBLE  
3 KEEPS  
4 SINGAPORE  
5 TROPICAL  
6 AFRICA  
7 EARTH  
8 DED  
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# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1994 9

Financial Markets		Jordan Times		
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank		
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close Date 13/10/94	New York Close Date 14/10/94		
Sterling Pound	1.5895	1.5960		
Deutsche Mark	1.5284	1.5173		
Swiss Franc	1.2730	1.2625		
French Franc	5.2405	5.2138		
Japanese Yen	99.40	98.05		
European Currency Unit	1.2470	1.2540		
USD for JTC				
European opening or 1000 a.m. GMT				
Euromoney Interest Rates Date: 14/10/1994				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.37	5.62	6.12
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.75	6.12	6.87
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.56	3.87	4.06	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.43	5.75	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.47	5.81	6.13	6.65
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent				
Central Bank of Jordan's Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/10/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960		
Sterling Pound	1.1054	1.1109		
Deutsche Mark	0.4566	0.4569		
Swiss Franc	0.5149	0.5519		
French Franc	0.1329	0.1336		
Japanese Yen	0.7059	0.7094		
Dutch Guilder	0.4076	0.4096		
Swedish Krona	*****	*****		
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449		
Belgian Franc	*****	*****		
Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 15/10/1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Bahrain Dinar	1.8250	1.8450		
Lebanese Lira	0.040825	0.042500		
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1855		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5170	2.5600		
Qatari Riyal	0.1495	0.1917		
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2110		
Qatari Riyal	1.7900	1.8120		
UAE Dirham	0.1883	0.1900		
Greek Drachma	0.3725	0.3750		
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.5250		
Per 100				

## APEC businessmen want free trade in the region by 2010

JAKARTA (AFP) — A group of businessmen Saturday handed over a report to the current chairman of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Indonesian President Suharto, proposing that free trade in the region be reached by 2010.

"We are encouraging the leaders to encourage their economies to reach the concept of free trade by the year 2010," Les MacCraw, who cochairs the Pacific Business Forum (PBF) told President Suharto when handing over the group's report.

The report of the PBF, comprising 33 private business representatives of APEC's 18 member economies, said developed APEC economies should achieve free trade and investment

liberalisation in the region by 2002 and no later than 2010 for the other member economies.

The report also said that the goal should be adopted this year and that APEC should produce concrete results this year in order to sustain its role as a policy forum which would guide the growth of the region.

It recommended that the leaders of APEC should immediately adopt a policy of standstill on the introduction of new trade and investment barriers.

They should also adopt the principles of a non-binding investment code into domestic laws where appropriate and implement the Uruguay Round commitments as well as undertake further market opening measures.

Arab DHABI (AFP) — The new GATT trade agreement will open up world markets for petrochemical exports by Arab Gulf states and encourage them to press ahead with new projects, according to an official Gulf study.

The accord reached under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), signed by more than 120 countries in Morocco early this year, will also allow Gulf nations to boost industrial exports as most customs barriers will gradually come down, said the study by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretariat.

Although crude oil is not included, the GATT deal will have an indirect positive effect on demand as it will accelerate economic growth in industrial countries and other key oil importers, it said.

The study, published this week in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finance and industry ministry's bulletin, said European custom tariffs on petrochemicals would be

## GCC study: GATT deal to boost Arab Gulf petrochemical exports

gradually cut to between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent as from next year.

"There is no doubt this reduction in tariffs will give a strong boost to Gulf petrochemical exports," the Riyadh-based secretariat said. "The United States will be the most attractive market for these exports as tariffs will be cut to around four per cent. These factors will make investment in petrochemicals more feasible and consequently expand the sector."

The GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — are the main petrochemical producers in the Middle East, accounting for the bulk of the region's output of nearly 14 million tonnes per year.

The six members and other Arab oil producers have pumped in more than \$18 billion to set up 913 petrochemical projects in an effort to diversify their economies and reduce reliance on volatile oil earnings.

Encouraged by the GATT

in 1983, GCC petrochemical exports surged to more than \$3 billion in 1992 and the figure is expected to steadily increase after the GATT accord takes effect in 1995.

Most of the GCC petrochemical exports go to the European Union (EU), and the six members have complained that high customs tariffs there are blocking expansion of this sector at a time when crude prices have remained weak.

Several years of negotiations between the two sides on a free-trade pact that will tear down tariffs on petrochemicals and other products have produced no agreement, as the Europeans fear their markets will be flooded with cheap Gulf products that could threaten their independent petrochemical industry.

Petrochemical and other oil-related industries in the Gulf are the most feasible in the world given the region's enormous oil and gas reserves, standing at around 650 billion barrels and 40-trillion cubic metres.

"Resorting to compensation tariffs by other countries will negatively affect Gulf petrochemical exports," the study said.

## Egypt seen struggling to maintain cotton exports at '93 bumper levels

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's cotton producers, plagued by a slump in this year's harvest and hitches in the industry's liberalisation plans, still expect to match last year's bumper levels, export say.

But to do so, Egypt will have to import cheaper short staple cotton to help meet domestic demand and free up its higher quality — and higher-priced — long and extra long staples for international sales.

"They will concentrate on exports and sell as much as they can," a U.S. embassy agricultural expert said this week.

This year's crop, hit by boll

worm after the government introduced sweeping changes in pest control methods, is expected to be down about a quarter from last year's harvest.

Farmers near the northern town of Damietta, where much of the high quality 'Giza 70' cotton is grown, report yields down by as much as a half on 1993 levels.

The area of land given over to cotton growing also shrank this year by 15 per cent to around 720,000 acres (290,000 hectares) after some farmers, discouraged by slow state payment for their cotton, switched to other crops.

The production slump fol-

lows a rise in output last year to an eight-year high of around 416,000 tonnes of seed cotton and a similar surge in exports, as Egypt capitalised on crop failures in China, India and Pakistan to markets it once dominated.

This year's crop is barely expected to match domestic cotton demand of 315,000 tonnes. With a 65,000-tonne overhang of high quality stock from previous years, this would imply import requirement of at least 55,000 tonnes if exports are to be maintained at last year's 120,000 tonnes.

The low crop also comes

## Sunday Times joins price war

LONDON (R) — The Sunday Times, Britain's best-selling broadsheet Sunday newspaper, joined a widening price war Friday with an announcement it was slashing its cover price in half to 50 pence (80 cents).

The Sunday Times is a star in publishing tycoon Rupert Murdoch's News International PLC's stable of newspapers, itself a subsidiary of Mr. Murdoch's Australian-based News Corp. Ltd.

"We make a very large profit. We can afford this," John Witherow, the newspaper's acting editor, told Sky Television.

The Times, the Sunday paper's daily stablemate, started a price war in September 1993 by slashing its cover price first to 30 pence (48 cents), then to 20 pence (32 cents). Media industry share analysts estimate that Mr. Murdoch is losing £50 million (\$80 million) a year in the circulation war.

Its rivals, the Daily Telegraph, controlled by Canadian magnate Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc., and Newswise Publishing's Independent, reluctantly followed suit. They both now sell for 30 pence (48 cents) Monday to Friday.

Overall newspaper share prices fall with each price cut.

The Sunday Times, which announced its price cut in a blaze of television advertisements, will now cost 40 pence (65 cents) less than its competitor The Observer, which declined comment on the move.

It will be half the price of another rival. The Independent on Sunday, but editor Ian Jack said he was not planning an immediate matching price cut.

A spokeswoman for The Sunday Times said the paper was planning to increase its print run this weekend, in part because of the price cut, but also because the paper was planning serialisations of two books about heir to the throne Prince Charles' troubled marriage to Princess Diana.

"This is the perfect opportunity to cut the price of the paper," Mr. Witherow said.

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**ABU DHABI (AFP)**

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**GCC study: GATT deal to boost Arab Gulf petrochemical exports**

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"There is no doubt this reduction in tariffs will give a strong boost to Gulf petrochemical exports," the Riyadh-based secretariat said. "The United States will be the most attractive market for these exports as tariffs will be cut to around four per cent. These factors will make investment in petrochemicals more feasible and consequently expand the sector."

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This year's crop, hit by boll

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Talal Mansoor of Qatar celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the men's 200m final event Saturday at the 12th Asian Games. Talal timed 20.41 seconds, winning the gold and equalling the Asian record (AFP photo)

## Money makes Qatar's coaches run

HIROSHIMA (R) — How come a nation of half a million can win almost as many gold medals as a nation of one billion?

Money and devotion to sport is the answer according to the foreign coaches of Qatar which is once again defying its small size to make an impression on the medals table.

With three days left in the Asian Games, Qatar has two gold medals, only one behind massive India and with good hopes of picking up several more.

"If you have money, you can get good coaches," said Qatar's Anatoli Klimenko of Ukraine who coaches Qatar's discus, javelin.

Klimenko said the facilities offered to foreign coaches in Qatar, a small oil-rich Gulf sheikdom of just 500,000 people, compared with the best in the world.

The perks have attracted coaches from many countries, including several from

the East Bloc, struggling to find jobs after the collapse of state funding for massive sports machines under communist rule.

They make impressive reading — two Bulgarians, two Ukrainians, two Hungarians and one Czech, accompanied by two masons, one from Bulgaria and the other from Ukraine.

Ukrainian jump coach Oleg Serguev believes the athletes themselves are also good raw material in Qatar, once their mental attitudes are changed.

He said the Qataris have shown at the Asian Games they can fight for first places with the Asian sporting powers such as China.

"They have the mental attitude now," he said.

Qatar's golds have come in the glamour men's 100 metres and men's 400 metres events.

## Games set condom consumption record

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — The Asian Games athletes village may stop giving free condoms to competitors who seem to prize them more than they do medals.

The organisers, who laid on free contraceptives to stop the spread of AIDS, had planned for three packets per athlete over the two weeks.

But Shinichi Miyamori explained that some of the 4,000-strong contingent of competitors were grabbing up to 50.

"Headquarters is considering stopping the condoms because too many have been taken," said the games village pharmacist.

Miyamori suspects many of the condoms have become "souvenirs." And they are certainly not being used in Hiroshima's sex parlours

which are turning away foreign athletes and game officials.

The "soapland" parlours, illegal but widespread, say they apply a Japanese-only policy to stop the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) which many Japanese still see as a foreign disease.

"The athletes and officials come here often but we politely reject them," said the manager at the Renaissance, one of the 30 parlours in Hiroshima's "Tobson Bar" district.

"Asian Games or not, we have always turned down any gaingai (foreigner)," he added. "It is the same at other shops. We all fear AIDS."

AIDS has had a severe impact on Japan's sex industry.

try, and has led to an even greater clampdown on foreigners.

Sex gadget shops in the notorious red light zone of Nagaregawa in central Hiroshima are thriving with the influx of Asian Games family members.

"They buy many kinds of things. But the vibrators of different prices sell well," said the woman owner of Adult Shop Love chain.

"They speak different languages, Chinese, Korean and Arab. But I don't ask them where they are from."

The organising committee has been distributing booklets in 11 languages warning against AIDS as well as the disappearing condoms.

## S. Korea lose soccer bronze

HIROSHIMA (R) — Chinese distance runner Wang Junxia wants to do better, but she needs help.

The winner Saturday of the women's 10,000 metres Asian games title said she feared a lack of competition would stymie her relentless assault on the record books.

"I don't want to appear arrogant and it doesn't matter if you are talking about China or about Ma's family army. I would like to see better training and faster times in all of Asia. It would be beneficial to all of Asia and help us compete against the Europeans," she said.

On the face of it, it is difficult to imagine that the 19-year-old world record holder and world champion, star of coach Ma Junren's stable of athletes, had much to complain about.

Her winning time Saturday of 30 minutes 50.34 seconds was the seventh fastest ever

and the quickest this year by more than 18 seconds, despite lacklustre opposition from four other runners, one a barefoot 13-year-old from Burma.

The world record holder at both 10,000 metres and 3,000 metres — her world mark is 29:31.78 — paced herself like clockwork during the race and then took the line with an astonishing 30-second sprint over the last 200 metres.

Teammate Dong Li helped on track with her pacing, but she got most help from the gallery, where Ma sat holding court amidst his coterie of running disciples.

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Wang cast further light on the mysterious disappearance of Ma's family army from the public eye this year and their failure to make it to the lucrative European Grand

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## ASIAN GAMES

# Qatar's Mansoor wins sprints; Kazakhstan wins at long distances

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Qatar's Talal Mansoor reinforced his claim as Asia's sprint king Saturday with his second gold medal of the Asian Games, while Kazakhstan won the games' two longest races.

Wang Junxia, star member of "Ma's Army" of Chinese distance runners, picked up the pace near the end even though she was unbalanced, but couldn't match her world record in winning the women's 10,000 metres, a half-hour race.

Two outings in the neighbourhood of four hours brought gold to Kazakhstan's Serguei Koropanov, who won the 50-kilometre walk in 3 hours, 54 minutes, 37 seconds, and Andrei Kivilev, who won the 169.44-kilometre (105.25-mile) cycling road race in 4:31:53.

China, which added six golds to its collection Saturday, already had decisively clinched the overall medals championship for its third consecutive games.

In gold total rose to 133, while South Korea clinched second place ahead of archrival Japan by winning third badminton golds, the men's field hockey title and one gold in judo.

The Koreans had 62 to 56 for Japan, which won one in track and field and three in judo.

China led in total medals with 279. Japan had 202, South Korea 177 and Kazakhstan 77, including 25 gold. Aside from track and

cycling, Kazakhstan won the water polo gold Saturday.

Uzbekistan won two track and field events, and Ramil Ganiev claimed the title of Asia's best all-around athlete by winning the 10-event decathlon.

Indonesia won two badminton golds to go with the men's team title it won earlier.

Mansoor, already the 100-metre winner, won the 200 Saturday, also in a games record time.

Hi 20.41 beat the 8-year-old mark of 20.71. Koji Ito of Japan was second in 20.70. Mansoor is retiring after these games, his third as 100-metre champion.

In the women's 10,000, Wang and teammate Dong Li left two Japanese behind at about the halfway mark and Wang left Dong behind with 4,000 metres to go. She picked up the pace over the last 200, running the fastest women's 10,000 this year and setting a games record in 30 minutes, 50.34 seconds. She beat the world record of 29:31.78 last year. Dong also beat the old games mark of 31:50.98, taking the silver in 31:31.08.

Wang, one of two world record holders coached by Ma Junren, also holds the world mark in the 3,000, which she did not enter here.

Ganiev won the decathlon with 8,005 points, breaking the games mark of 7,799. Teammate Oleg Vertesnikov took the silver with 7,702.

China's Cai Min, who had

stood second after seven events, dropped out with an injury after the pole vault.

Uzbekistan's other gold came in the women's javelin, where Oksana Yargina upset favoured Ha Xiaoyan of China with a throw of 64.62 metres. South Korea's Lee Young-Sup also beat Ha, 62.30 to 62.08.

China finished 1-2 in all four track and field events it won Saturday. Aside from Wang and Dong in the women's 10,000, it was Li Tong and Chen Yanhao in the men's 110-metre hurdles, Yao Weili and Li Jing in the women's long jump, and Sui Ximai and Zhang Liuhong in the women's shot put.

Li won in a games record 13.30 seconds. Yao also broke a games mark with her jump of 6.91 metres, and Sui won with a 20.45-metre toss.

Japan's Takahisa Yoshida edged South Korea's Lee Jintae 2.27 to 2.24 in the men's high jump.

Kivilev also led a 1-2 finish in the men's cycling race. He took the lead after about 127 kilometres (79 miles), and teammate Alexandre Vino-kuro made up about a minute over the last 14 kilometres (8 miles) to match his time, but not his medal.

China swept all three medals in the women's 56.48-kilometre (35-mile) cycling road race, with all three medalists times in 1:57:10. Guo Xinghong won the gold.

China also won the men's basketball gold for the third consecutive games, defeating

had been decided in advance: The men's single was an all-Indonesian affair, and only South Koreans were left in the women's and mixed doubles.

South Korea beat India 3-2 for the men's field hockey title. Defending champion Pakistan, which lost a penalty shoot-out to South Korea in the semifinals, took the bronze by drubbing Japan 6-0.

Kazakhstan captured its water polo gold with a perfect 5-0 record, beating Singapore 2-17 Saturday in its final game. China beat Japan 9-5, leaving the Chinese with the silver and Japan with the bronze.

Defending champion Malaysia beat Thailand 15-9, 15-13 in the gold medal game in sepak takraw, a southeast game that resembles volleyball except that players can't use their hands to send the ball over the net. Singapore defeated Indonesia 15-10, 18-13 for the bronze.

Japan's judo winners Saturday were Olympic silver medalist Ayoko Tamura over China's Li Aiye by superiority in the women's 48-kilogramme division, Noriko Anno over China's Qiao Yannan by a throw in the women's open class, and Katsuyuki Masuebi over South Korea's Lee Joon-Young by a pin in the men's open class. South Korea's Kim Kyuk was judged the winner over Japan's Ryuuji Sonoda in the men's 60-kilogramme class.

The nations winning the day's badminton golds mostly



REHEARSALS: A group of Japanese women in traditional kimonos performs on the track of the Big Arch Stadium during rehearsals for the 12th Asian Games closing ceremony due Sunday (AFP photo)

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## Wang's report card — could do better

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## Mahfouz recovers after attack that shocked Egyptians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz was reportedly recovering well Saturday after a knife attack, apparently by an Islamic radical. Fellow writers called the stabbing an assault on freedom of thought in Egypt.

The 83-year-old author, diabetic and nearly blind, was stabbed in the neck several times Friday night as he left his house to attend a weekly meeting with other literary figures. The assassin fled in a car with two accomplices.

Mr. Mahfouz was in excellent condition considering his age, said a doctor at the police hospital. He said the writer was conscious and talking but would remain in the hospital's intensive care unit for at least 72 hours.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but police blamed Muslim militants who have carried out a bloody, 2½-year campaign to destabilise the government and install Islamic rule.

Egypt was in shock on Saturday after the attack. "He is Egypt's fourth pyramid," said a teary-eyed Hassan Morsi, a waiter in Casino Al Nil cafe, which has served Mr. Mahfouz his sugar-free Turkish coffee for the past 15 years.

"How can they do this to him? Such a peace-loving man and the pride of the nation?" he said in the Nile-side cafe, where Mr. Mahfouz meets every Friday with a literary group called "Al Harafeesh" (the night animals), including producers, actors and celebrities as well as ordinary people.

His friends had been waiting for Mr. Mahfouz at the cafe on Friday evening when a police officer informed them of the attack.

Fathi Hashem, a friend who witnessed the attack, recognised the assailant as someone who attended the Harafeesh gatherings.

## Sharaa urges U.S. to pressure Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa urged the United States on Saturday to exert more influence on Israel so that obstacles impeding progress in the Middle East peace process could be removed.

He made his remarks before after talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez.

During the two-hour meeting, Mr. Sharaa relayed a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Mr. Hrawi and briefed the Lebanese officials on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Syria.

Mr. Sharaa said that while the talks with the Israelis had not reached a "progressive stage," the Syrians had noted a more serious U.S. desire to bridge the gaps between Syria and Israel.

The Syrian-Israeli track in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process has been stalled since February.

"Because of this American seriousness, the United States should exert more influence on Israel to push the peace process forward," said Mr. Sharaa.

The meeting came two days after Mr. Christopher ended his latest Mideast peace mission, his fifth peace-promoting shuttle in the region since May.

Mr. Christopher has said that Israel and Syria were inching closer to a peace agreement, but acknowledged that gaps still exist.

## PNA-Hamas showdown looms

(Continued from page 1) peace talks and sealing off the Gaza Strip.

"The Israeli government should put an end to the policy of collective punishment against the Gaza Strip and against Palestinians as a whole," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters after the marathon seven-hour meeting.

"We were trying our best to end these problems peacefully. The results did not surprise us when the Israeli government resorted to military operations," he added.

An official who requested anonymity said most of the Hamas supporters would be released in the next few days.

## Gulf tension eases

(Continued from page 1) vote before Mr. Kozyrev's arrival, stressed that if the United States submits an agreed-on resolution for a vote Saturday, they would have no choice but to vote on it.

Knwaiti officials said Saturday they were wary of Iraq's pledge to recognise the emirate and that they wanted to see the recognition in writing and soon.

Meanwhile, staff in the Ali Baba cafe, which Mr. Mahfouz frequents during the winter, expressed their outrage at the attack.

"He is a national treasure. The West made a hero of him and honoured him. I can't believe that this is how we treat him," said Nader Ibrahim Sayed, a cashier.

"If they (the militants) had a problem with the state, why don't they take it out on the state and leave innocent people alone," Ali Baba's manager Khaled Abdul Moati said.

Mr. Mahfouz, a critic of religious conservatives and supporter of Arab-Israeli peace, is the only Arab author to have won the Nobel prize.

In 1989, militants threatened him for his banned book "The Children of Our District," in which he depicts God as a father and the prophets as his children.

But his friends dismissed the theory that this was behind the attack.

"He was not attacked because of his writings but because he is a symbol of Egypt and (the militants) wanted to attack the state through him," said Mr. Mahfouz's old friend, producer Tawfiq Saleh.

Mr. Mahfouz was an easy target, Mr. Saleh said. He always refused bodyguards, was "scrupulously punctual," and all of Cairo knows the site of his Nile-side home.

## U.S. move in Gulf to cost under \$1 billion

Mt. Sharaa blamed the stalemate on Israel.

Syria wants Israel to relinquish the strategic Golan Heights which it lost in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Israel refuses to take that step without a clear idea of the kind of peace Damascus would extend in return.

Mr. Christopher did not stop in Lebanon, which he has visited only once since becoming secretary of state.

Syrian officials usually brief Lebanese leaders on Mr. Christopher's mission.

Lebanon seeks Israeli withdrawal from an enclave in South Lebanon that Israel carved out in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Lebanon and Syria are the only two front-line states that have not made peace with Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan recently signed preliminary accords with the Jewish state. Egypt reached a settlement in 1979.

Asked to comment on the Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded Friday to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Sharaa said:

"There's a general feeling in the Arab World that peace has not yet prevailed. Therefore, it cannot be considered that the prize has come at the right time and for the right goal."

but those with connections to its Qassam military wing would be held for more questioning.

Leaders from Hamas and the PLO said relations were shattered by the kidnapping.

"Hamas has burned its bridges with the authority. It will be difficult for both sides to trust each other," a PLO official said.

Four Reuter journalists were still being held by the Palestinian authority. They were detained on Wednesday.

One of the three Hamas kidnappers killed in Friday's shootout, Jadallah, was the brother of Reuters Gaza photographer Ahmad Jadallah.



Picture of January 1993 shows U.S. Patriot missiles deployed in Kuwait (AFP photo)

Also in Abu Dhabi, Mr. Juppe said the key question was: "Are the Iraqi authorities going to officially accept U.N. resolution 833 and solemnly recognise the sovereignty of Kuwait and its borders, yes or no?"

"The ball is clearly in their court," he added.

He said he had spoken Saturday with Mr. Kozyrev by telephone and told him Iraq was prepared to recognise the emirate and that all countries in the region must respect the territorial integrity of other states.

External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh added in a statement that New Delhi also welcomed Baghdad's decision to recognise the "existence" of the Kuwaiti state.

But he added, "we have to see whether that is really the case. This cannot be solved through a statement."

He said a "swift and unambiguous" statement from Iraq would be a new development "which we will have to take into account."

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"I call on the Iraqi leadership to take a quick and clear decision in this respect without any conditions or restrictions," he said, according to WAM.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid also called for a "clear" statement from Iraq on Kuwait's sovereignty.

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Oman and Kuwait "to assure (Kuwaiti) leaders that France stands firmly with them."

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